



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Thursday
6 June 1991

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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Meeting Ends; Foreign Ministers Depart

LD0306192991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1758 GMT
3 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Dhahran, 3 Jun (SPA)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers left the eastern zone this evening after attending the 39th session of the GCC Council. The session concluded this evening at the Meridian Hotel in al-Khubar. [passage omitted]

Arab League Calls on UN To Stop Israeli Raids

NC0506143291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt
Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] The Arab League Secretariat General has issued a statement saying that the successive Israeli air raids on Lebanese cities and Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon are a blatant, hostile action, and the international community should not stay silent about them.

The statement said that these Israeli attacks, which killed 13 people and wounded more than 40 others, expose Israel's intentions to impede all efforts to establish peace in the Middle East and restore stability to Lebanon.

The Arab League called on the United Nations to stop Israel's violations of international law, to stop its continuous attacks on Lebanon, and to force it to withdraw from southern Lebanon as soon as possible in implementation of Security Council Resolution 425.

Arab League Statement on Israeli 'Judaization'

NC0406163491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1434 GMT
4 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—The Arab League has stressed that Israel's adherence to its hostile policy of building settlements is an obstacle to the peace process. It said this policy is part of a continuing organized program for Judaization which aims to obliterate Arab identity and culture and which will raise tension in the region.

An Arab League Secretariat statement said today that Arab League Assistant Secretary General Mahdi Mustafa al-Hadi met with the UN committee headed by the Sri Lankan envoy to the United Nations, which was in Cairo on a fact-finding tour of the region that also took it to Damascus and Amman.

At the meeting, he explained the Arab countries' position on the peace process and their adherence to the principles of international law and peace-seeking resolutions.

The statement added that Mr. al-Hadi also explained that the Arab countries urge the United Nations to implement the provision in the 1949 Geneva Convention on protecting the rights of civilians under occupation. The Arab countries also urge the United Nations to work to stop Israel's repressive and hostile measures

against Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories, including usurpation of land and expulsion of citizens from their homes.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Urges U.S. To Recognize Palestinian Rights

LD0606090491 Algiers Voice of Palestine
in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and president of the State of Palestine, at the OAU meeting in Abuja, Nigeria; date not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Your Excellency, brother President Ibrahim Babangida, chairman of the Organization of African Unity [OAU], president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; brother presidents and leaders of African countries; brother heads of delegation; honorable guests, warm greetings. Chairman, before I begin my speech I would like to make the African summit, leaders, and peoples aware of this new aggression which began yesterday against our Palestinian and Lebanese presence in the Sidon region of southern Lebanon.

Yesterday and today, 16 Israeli aircraft took part in bombing that area, particularly the residential areas there. A large number of Palestinian and Lebanese citizens have been hit, including the Lebanese convent school and a UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] school in 'Ayn al-Hilwah refugee camp. Casualties among students was over 120 wounded or killed.

Today the Israeli Navy took part in artillery shelling, and in the afternoon the enemy artillery in the occupied southern Lebanese region took part in shelling the Sidon region.

Today I discussed this issue with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. He shared my concern about the possibility of a big military operation to destroy the peace steps attempted by the U.S. Administration and the international forces in the Middle East region. I wanted to put my brother African leaders in the new picture which we are confronting, in addition to what the masses of our people are confronting in our occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Brother president and delegation heads, you are aware that the United States, after the end of the war and through President Bush on 6 March 1991 before the U.S. Congress, submitted a host of principles to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. These were: 1) land in exchange for peace, 2) implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, 3) Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories, 4) Palestinian people's legitimate political rights, and 5) Israel's security. Despite their obvious shortcomings, we officially and publicly welcomed these

principles, viewing them as representing an initiative that contained positive points.

It became apparent through U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's shuttle trips to the region, however, that he came up with a different plan which they called the dual approach policy to normalize Arab-Israeli relations and grant Palestinians nothing more than autonomy, which is a new slavery for our people similar to the Bantustans in South Africa. Israel has indeed started to implement the policy of isolation of regions in our occupied territories, confiscation of land, and the establishment of settlement to swallow up land and rights and to Judaize the sacred places. [passage omitted]

It is regrettable that the U.S. move which Baker is trying to achieve does not aim at implementing international legitimacy and its resolutions in Palestine and the Middle East but judges judge by double standards in which Israeli no's coincide with U.S. no's regarding the rights of the Palestinian people and the international resolutions on them and their implementation.

Your Excellency President, brother presidents and leaders, despite all these biased policies against our Palestinian people and against their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, we have always adopted a positive stance vis-a-vis all the efforts and moves made locally, regionally, and internationally to establish a just peace in the region, because our aim is to lift the suffering from our Palestinian people, end the Israeli occupation of our land, and establish peace in the land of peace, Palestine. The Israeli Government, however, has continued to reject all peace initiatives. It has rejected the Egyptian 10-point plan and the Baker five-point plan for Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo. Finally, here it is obstructing the U.S. move and continuing to establish settlements and control water resources and steal them. It has also persisted with its racist policies and its repressive practices against our people and their blessed intifadah, which includes every form of blatant violation of the UN resolutions, its charter, human rights, and the fourth Geneva conventions. [passage omitted]

I call on the U.S. Government, which has started to see half of this truth—that the Israeli policies are obstructing the peace process—to see the other half of the truth, which is the inalienable national rights of our Palestinian people, and to recognize them according to international legitimacy and resolutions. This is a challenge which faces the U.S. Government and its leadership, as it faces all Western leaders and the United Nations itself. It is a challenge for the sake of the credibility and effectiveness of the United Nations.

Will international legitimacy be implemented on the Palestine issue, which is the essence of the conflict in the region, with the same enthusiasm and will with which it was implemented in the Gulf? Or will the Palestine issue be judged by a different standard? We call on everyone to apply the same standard to the Palestine issue, the Middle East, and South Africa as was applied in the Gulf.

I turn to President Bush who led the war in the Gulf: Will he be able to lead peace in Palestine? I stress before you that we are committed to the Palestine peace initiative which was endorsed by our Palestine National Council in Algiers in November 1988 and which I announced in Geneva in December of the same year. We believe that the best way to achieve a just peace is to call for the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East with the participation of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties concerned with the conflict, including the PLO and the Israeli Government on equal footing with the other parties and on the basis of international legitimacy and its resolutions, particularly regarding the Palestinian people's legitimate national political rights. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi Sends Letter Saudi Foreign Minister

LD0606063291 *Algiers Voice of Palestine*
in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], foreign minister of the state of Palestine and head of the PLO Political Department, has sent a letter to the foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, concerning bilateral Palestinian-Saudi relations. Brother Abu Ja'far [Abd al-Latif 'Abd al-Qadir], director general of the (PLO's) Political Department, handed the letter to ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Tunis, Ibrahim al-Sa'd Ibrahim, during a meeting before noon today. Talks were held during the meeting on the Arab situation and positions vis-a-vis the attempts made to reach a political solution in the Middle East and Palestine questions. Agreement was reached to continue contacts and meetings for the good of the relations between the two sides.

DFLP Says Lebanon Raids Obstruction to Peace

JN0606102491 *Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic*
1000 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] We have learned from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Information Office in Damascus that the DFLP has information on Israeli preparations to carry out a new expansionist operation in southern Lebanon. The DFLP said that the recent raids are a blatant sign of the Shamir government's insistence in obstructing any step toward peace. This is an attempt to tear up the Lebanese-Syrian treaty, as declared by DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah.

Algeria

President Orders State of Siege for 4 Months

Presidential Order Issued

LD0506193891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Just as I was about to enter the studio we received an APS cable with part of the text of the order on the affirmation of the state of siege. The cable reads:

Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, has issued Presidential Order Number 91/196 dated 4 June 1991, on the affirmation of the state of siege. Following is the text:

The president of the republic, in accordance with the Constitution, particularly Articles 67, 74, and 86:

Following the meeting of the Higher Council of Security and consultations with the speaker of the National People's Assembly, the head of the government and the chairman of the Constitutional Council:

Orders the following:

Article 1: The state of siege is being confirmed as of today, 5 June 1991 at 0000 hours for four months throughout the national territory. However, it is possible to lift it as soon as the situation becomes normal.

Article 2: The aim of the state of siege is to protect the independence of the state's democratic and republican institutions and to restore public order and the normal functioning of public utilities with all legal and organizational means, particularly those that have been stipulated in this order.

Article 3: Military authorities are delegated to exercise the powers of civil authorities as far as public order and police are concerned. In this capacity the police services will be attached to the supreme command of the military authorities, which are legally delegated the powers of the police. The civil authorities continue to exercise powers that have not been taken away from them.

Article 4: Military authorities, which have been delegated to exercise police powers, can, within the limits determined by the government, take measures to impose administrative arrest and house arrest on any adult whose activities are construed as dangerous to public order, public security, and the normal functioning of public utilities.

We are still waiting for rest of the order.

More on Presidential Decree

LD0506223191 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Presidential Decree on State of Siege—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

Article 5: A committee for monitoring public order shall be set up at the level of every province. This committee will be chaired by a legally appointed military authority

and will consist of the governor, the chief inspector of the provincial police, the commander of the national police contingent, or the commander of the military sector if necessary, and two personalities, well known for their commitment to the public interest.

Article 6: The committee for monitoring public order shall study and recommend the implementation of the extraordinary measures stipulated in this decree which are aimed at restoring public order, running public utilities, and insuring the security of property and persons. It will also attend to the proper implementation of these measures.

Article 7: The military authorities which are empowered with the powers of the police can undertake the following tasks within the confines of the conditions defined by the government; to carry out or entrust others to hold searches, whether by day or night, in public or private business premises and also inside homes; to ban the issue of leaflets or holding of public meetings and appeals believed to be likely to stir up chaos and lack of security, or their continuation; and to order the handing over of arms and ammunition, with the aim of depositing them.

Article 8: The military authorities which are empowered with the powers of police can, either in part or whole, carry out the following: Restrict or prevent the passage of persons or a gatherings in roads and public places; set up regions of residence for non-residents fixed by law; prevent the actions of any adult whose activities evidently harm public order or the ordinary running of public utilities; organize by administrative means the transport of foodstuffs and certain materials, and their distribution; ban strikes which are liable to hinder the restoration of normal public order in public utilities; order the coercion of employees to carry out their normal professional activities at their places of work; and order, by means of coercion, in cases of urgency and necessity every public utility or public or private establishment to provide its services.

Article 9: Irrespective of all their basic statutes or orientation, societies whose leaders or members carry out acts that contravene laws, and in particular Law 89/11 dated 5 July 1983 pertaining to societies of political nature or the provisions of this law, are subject to the halting of all activities by means of an executive decree. In such cases the provisions of Article 34 of the above-mentioned law shall be legally applied if the matter concerns a society of a political nature.

Article 10: If in the course of maintaining public order or running public utilities, the legal work of the public authorities is thwarted or hindered by evident menacing attitudes, or by open opposition from local councils or elected executive municipal councils, the government shall take measures to suspend or dissolve them. In such

cases, the custodian authority shall appoint executory commissions at the level of the concerned regional localities from among the civil servants until the lifting of the suspension or the filling of their posts by means of elections at a suitable time.

Article 11: Courts martial can throughout the whole period of the state of siege notify the occurrence of felonies or serious crimes against state security irrespective of the status of their perpetrators or those who are in league with them.

Article 12: the measures and restrictions imposed by this decree shall be lifted once the state of siege is over, apart from prosecutions which have already begun before the judicial bodies.

Article 13: This decree shall be published in the official gazette of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

President Appoints New Prime Minister 5 Jun

*LD0506221941 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Jun 91*

[Text] Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, today appointed Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali head of the government. Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali, who was received this afternoon by the head of state, will be carrying out extensive consultations before forming a new government.

Military Authorities Issue Communiques

Curfew Imposed 6 Jun

*LD0506221941 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2200 GMT 6 Jun 91*

[Text] Military Communique Number 1:

In implementation of Order 196/91, dated 4 June 1991, concerning the state of general siege a curfew will be imposed starting tomorrow, 6 June, from 2300 to 0330 in the provinces of Algiers, Blida, Tipasa, and Boumerdes.

During the curfew, peoples' movement is prohibited in public streets and places.

People working in the following—civil protection, public health, electricity, and gas services, road services, hygiene and water services, accredited press conferences—are allowed to carry out their professions as long as they can produce their service card.

Military Assumes Police Powers

*LD0506225191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Jun 91*

[Text] Military Communique Number 2:

In implementation of order 196/91 dated 4 June 1991 concerning the state of the siege in the whole of the national territories:

The military authority delegates to the commander of the military sectors in the region under their control and to the commander of the territorial army in the Province of Algiers the powers given to the police within the framework of the measures of the state of siege. For this purpose, the curfew and other measures limiting the movement of peoples will be under their control.

Gatherings, Demonstrations Banned

*LD0506225391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Jun 91*

[Text] Military Communique Number 3:

All gatherings, marches, and demonstrations are absolutely banned in public thoroughfares and places at all towns in the national territory as from 6 June 1991.

Army Begins To Return Order to Algiers

Deploys at Strategic Points

*LD0506131891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jun 91*

[Text] In the homeland, units of the National People's Army started in the early hours of this morning, Wednesday, to deploy in strategic squares and streets in the capital, to implement the state of siege which the president of the republic announced at dawn today. These units took up positions starting with the large squares, including Martyrs' Square which was, hours before that, the field of confrontation between the security forces and the demonstrators.

Security Forces Control Algiers

*LD0506125191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jun 91*

[Text] An APS cable this morning said the security forces have been able to take control of the situation in all the areas of the capital that were involved in the disturbances. The security forces also removed all the barricades that were erected by uncontrolled elements in some quarters. APS mentioned that persons burned a number of civilian cars and cars belonging to the national security forces by using petrol bombs.

Algiers Calm After Deployment

*LD0506144591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Jun 91*

[Text] The situation in the streets and neighborhoods of the capital Algiers became calm at noon today as gatherings of people, as seen in the past few days, have disappeared while the various public and private premises, apart from bakeries, have remained closed, one hour after the deployment of units of the National People's Army in public squares and strategic areas.

'Cautious Calm' Prevailing

LD0506190791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] A cautious calm prevails this evening in several quarters of the capital. During our travels through Kouba, al-Makaria, Birmandreis, al-Mouradia, al-Madania, all these quarters are dominated by a cautious calm.

What is noted is the presence of some barricades and the remains of debris on the sidewalks. Most shops have closed, except for some pharmacies and bakeries. One also notes the presence of some army units in several points of these quarters.

We also met a group of youths on the road leading to al-Madania from Martyrs' Street, who were there to organize traffic, examine documents, and ascertain the identity of persons.

In the Kouba too, we found the Higher School for Teachers of Secondary Education open. This is what we can say about the situation in the capital this evening.

Second Day Said 'Normal'

LD0606092791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Excerpt] The proclamation of the general state of siege throughout the country—announced by the head of state—enters its second day in an atmosphere of calm, as life was back to normal this morning after the deployment of National People's Army units in key points inside and outside towns. [passage omitted]

FIS Asks 'Militants' To Stop Demonstrations

LD0506152191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] We have learned from certain sources that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has asked its militants to stop marches and demonstrations in streets and public squares, pending the issuance of fresh instructions.

These sources, quoting [FIS leader] Abassi Madani, have added that the Consultative Council, the higher political body of the FIS, is at this moment holding a meeting to discuss the situation after the imposition of the state of siege.

The national radio is still trying to contact Mr. Abassi Madani, the official spokesman of the Front, to know the latest news on the position of the FIS.

March Set For 6 Jun Postponed Indefinitely

LD0506202191 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] We have learned this evening from the Socialist Forces Front that the march scheduled for tomorrow has been postponed indefinitely.

Opposition Leader Wants FIS Dissolved

LD0506213291 Paris France-Inter Radio Network
in French 1700 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Some Algerians, like Ait Ahmed, secretary general of the Socialist Forces Front, do not hide their anxiety. This Algerian opposition leader notes that economical and political problems in Algeria cannot be solved by the return of the Army. The Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] goes even further, it asks President Benjedid to outlaw the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. RCD President Said Saadi spoke to Mathieu Aron.

[Begin recording] [Saadi] It is imperative to literally exclude from public life the political parties which do not respect the law. People cannot have their cake and eat it: FIS uses democracy to organize civil disobedience, this is wholly unacceptable.

[Aron] So you want FIS to be dissolved?

[Saadi] Absolutely, because FIS states that violence is a strategy to take power and we believe that as soon as the opportunity to express one's opinion freely exists, one must loyally play the game. Algeria can no longer allow itself to head for adventure. It needs a minimum of stability, a minimum of loyalty in the political field to allow each one to present his program to the public and FIS refuses to play the game. [end recording]

All Visas Suspended Until Further Notice

LD0506135591 Paris France-Inter Radio Network
in French 1100 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Algeria awoke to a state of siege. The capital is being patrolled by tanks. President Chadli Bendjedid, who announced it on the television last night, also specified that the legislative elections scheduled for the end of the month have been postponed and that the government has resigned. I would add that all visas, especially for French tourists, have been suspended until further notice. [passage omitted]

Between the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and the FLN [National Liberation Front] one of the parties which best represents the democratic movement—it is called the RCD, the Rally For Culture and Democracy, and it had achieved the third highest vote in the last municipal elections. I propose that we listen to the comments of the president of this party, Said Saadi, speaking to Mathieu Aron.

[Begin recording] [Saadi] It is an almost inevitable situation. We were in a state of civil disobedience. The state of law was completely overwhelmed. Virtually no option remained other than that one. It was not a question of dealing with political reasoning, but of facing a situation of physical violence, which threatened to put the country at risk, so it is the final solution. When it is the legal institution which has called on the Army to protect public order it can still be understood even if one deplores the fact that during the space of two years,

unfortunately, it has been necessary for the Army to come and restore order, but there was no option of doing otherwise.

[Haron] Are you afraid that the Army might settle itself in Algiers?

[Saadi] Very sincerely, I do not believe so. I believe that if there is something important to note in Algiers over the last few years it is the fact that the Algerian military, which had kept power since independence until 1988, have realized that the world has changed and they have returned to their barracks. They have realized that they are there to protect the institutions and not to make them. Now this is the basic idea. This is what we see, we who are outside the military institution. It is to be hoped that this is also the real situation.

[Haron] How do you view the Islamic demonstrations?

[Saadi] Rather than support for a phenomenon of Islam they are above all the reaction of ignored youth, a reaction of helplessness rather than a positive reaction of constructive support for a plan for an Islamic society. I absolutely believe this. I have been seen these young people who could have been my brothers. It is because the world is closed to them. It is rather an expression of the failure of the FLN than the expression of support for a plan for a fundamentalist society. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Socialist Leader Reaffirms Call for Elections

LD0506151491 Paris Antenne-2 Television
Network in French 1100 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] It may be noted that when he proclaimed the state of siege President Chadli appealed at the same time to all the party leaders to help him surmount the ordeal and ensure the durability of the republican institutions. I quote. This was a kind of message to opposition figures who might fear a return of the Army to Algerian political life. In this connection, Veronique Tavot contacted Mr. Ait Ahmed on the telephone this morning on behalf of Antenne-2. He is the president of the Algerian Socialist Forces Front and is calling for the immediate lifting of the state of siege and the holding of the legislative elections scheduled for 27 June. Let us listen to Mr. Ait Ahmed speaking to Veronique Tavot.

[Begin recording] [Ahmed] Who knows whether there are people who, going beyond the state of siege, would not like to give backing to a coup d'etat? Is this state of siege not concealing the wish for a putsch?

[Tavot] By whom, for example?

[Ahmed] I have no idea. In any case, you know, one does not settle, one cannot settle political problems and economic problems through a return of the Army. I think that would be the greatest catastrophe. I trust the majority of the Army leaders who have had the experience of October. I think the Constitution which followed the tragic events of October 1988 has demonstrated its

weaknesses and its inability to lead the country to development and democracy. We need another constitution. That is why we want legislative elections for a constituent assembly. I think that a problem of legitimacy must be settled. We do not want to get involved in talking about personalities. We are not against x or y. We simply wish Algeria, practically in a state of unconstitutionality with itself, to achieve constitutional and institutional stability. [end recording]

Egypt

MENA Reports on Mubarak-al-Asad Meeting

NC0506121791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1207 GMT
5 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, President Mubarak's press secretary, has reported that Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad held an hour-long closed-door meeting today. After the meeting, the two were joined by members of their respective delegations.

The talks were attended on the Egyptian side by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's Office for Political Affairs; and on the Syrian side by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The two leaders resumed their talks at a luncheon banquet that President Mubarak hosted in honor of the Syrian president and his delegation at the presidential office.

Further on Talks

JN0506205191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic
Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Cairo at 1300 today on a working visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak headed those who received him at the airport. [passage omitted]

Following the reception ceremony, the two presidents left in an official motorcade to the Egyptian Presidential Palace, where they held a closed meeting. [passage omitted]

The talks dealt with developments in the region and the current international efforts to hold a peace conference. Viewpoints were in agreement on the importance of holding a peace conference on clear bases that would lead to the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace. The talks also dealt with the U.S. proposals on arms control in the region. These ideas were discussed from all aspects and there were identical opinions about the issue.

The two sides agreed to resume contacts and consultations. The talks were interrupted by a luncheon hosted

by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in honor of President Hafez al-Assad, attended by members of the two delegations.

Foreign Minister on Talks

NCU506163041 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1538 GMT
5 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the Egyptian-Syrian talks dealt with a number of issues, including the status of the peace process, the situation in the region and the recent initiatives on arms limitations, and a number of issues of common interest.

In reply to a question about the return of Egyptian and Syrian forces to Kuwait, 'Amr Musa said that this issue will be submitted for discussions and contacts and that meetings of experts and then of ministers will be held in the near future for more talks on the security situation in the region.

Asked about the return of Egyptian forces to Kuwait, the foreign minister said: We are still discussing the situation and all elements of comprehensive security in the region. The details will be discussed at meetings and during consultations to be held next week within the framework of the Damascus declaration.

Replying to another question on the extent of Egypt's success in overcoming the gap between Syria and Israel over the convocation of the peace conference, 'Amr Musa said that Egypt is not mediating but is insisting on a definite stand on the peace process, namely that this process should start as quickly as possible and that all parties should participate in it. He added: These are some of the difficulties and some of the points. We discussed them all, and we will continue to discuss them. I will visit Damascus next week to continue the discussions chaired by the two presidents.

Asked if the Syrians and Egyptians discussed the stockpiling of U.S. weapons in Israel, the Egyptian foreign minister said: We discussed the initiatives on arms limitations. Our position is that the disarmament efforts in the region should be applied to everyone, without exception. The nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction should also be applied to all countries. There is in addition the need to find a system of control to which all countries will be subject, including Israel, which must join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

In reply to another question, 'Amr Musa said that the next meeting of experts and ministers will be held by the eight countries that signed the Damascus declaration: the Gulf Cooperation Council member states, Egypt, and Syria.

Asked if Presidents Mubarak and al-Assad discussed any new elements in the peace conference, the foreign minister said: There are no new elements. But there is an identity of views on the points raised during the talks. This issue will be discussed more during my visit to

Damascus next week. He added that agreement was reached on a number of points and that there was an exchange of views on ways to continue the peace process and continue the discussions about security in the region and the initiatives to control armaments in it.

In reply to a question on whether there is a joint Egyptian-Syrian stand on holding the peace conference under UN auspices, 'Amr Musa said: There is agreement on starting the peace process as quickly as possible, because we believe that the time available is short and that we must enter into the peace process according to the UN resolutions and the principles of its charter.

In reply to another question, the foreign minister explained that no date has been set yet for the next tour of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, adding that the possibility exists but nothing has been decided.

Regarding the statements by Israeli officials about the need to restrain the UN role in the peace process because it is an organization under the control of the Third World countries, the foreign minister said: The United Nations represents the whole world and the international community. It issued Resolutions 242 and 338. Therefore, the UN resolutions are the terms of reference. The general principles are those of the United Nations. The important thing is to start the negotiations on these bases in order to start the peace process and reach a settlement.

Al-Assad Ends Visit, Departs

NCU506154394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1538 GMT
5 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—Syrian President Hafez al-Assad left Cairo this afternoon following a visit of several hours to Egypt, during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak.

President Mubarak led the officials who saw him off at Cairo airport.

Foreign Ministry Source Condemns Israeli Attacks

NCU506170941 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT
5 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry has stated that the Arab Republic of Egypt condemns the Israeli aggression against south Lebanon, which has killed innocent civilians since it began on Monday.

Egypt wishes to note in this respect that these actions challenge and incite emotions. They also impede the peace efforts that several regional and international parties are sincerely making.

The source added: The surprising thing is the intensity of this aggression and the use of various types of weapons at a time when efforts are being made to gain credibility for

the ongoing peace endeavors with the people of the region, who have long yearned for peace based on justice.

Ghali Says Peace 'Inconceivable Without Syria'

NC0206090991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0824 GMT
2 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations, has said that a just settlement of the Middle East issue is inconceivable without Syria.

In an interview to be published in tomorrow's edition of ROSE AL-YUSUF, Dr. Ghali said that Syria is a major frontline country and cannot be excluded from any peace efforts in the region. He noted that several Arab parties have announced that they will not go to the peace conference unless Syria does.

As for the impact of President Mubarak's recent tour on the settlement efforts in the region, Dr. Ghali said that President Mubarak has explained Egypt's views as to how peace can be achieved in the Middle East. President Mubarak emphasized the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and called for European participation and a UN role in the settlement process.

Dr. Ghali said that the tour was part of Egypt's continuing efforts, with Arab and international coordination, to bring peace to the Middle East. The tour aimed at mobilizing support for the peace efforts and presenting the Egyptian and Arab views.

Prime Minister Receives Libyan Secretary

NC0206102791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt
Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi received Muhammad Mahmud al-Hijazi, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Integration With Egypt, this morning. Their discussion focused on economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Central Bank Governor Salah Hamid and Dr. Jalal Abu-al-Dahab, minister of supply and internal trade, attended the meeting.

Meets 'Amr Musa

NC0206124191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt
Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa conferred today with Muhammad Mahmud al-Hijazi, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Integration with Egypt. After the meeting, al-Hijazi said the discussion dealt with Egyptian-Libyan relations, given the current progress in these relations. It also dealt with arrangements for holding the second session of the joint higher committee, scheduled to be held in Libya in the first week of July. During this session, he added, officials from the two countries will discuss ways to consolidate

Egyptian-Libyan cooperation and will exchange instruments of ratification of the cooperation agreements signed between the two countries.

'Amr Musa Suggests Scrapping Zionism Resolution

NC0506132791 Paris AFP in English 1306 GMT
5 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, June 5 (AFP)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has suggested that a U.N. General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism could be scrapped as part of a "global settlement" in the Middle East.

"If Israel asked for the annulment of the (November 1975 General Assembly) resolution of the United Nations that links Zionism to racism, there must be a counter-measure," he declared.

"That means that a global deal should be reached for the benefit of all concerned parties," Mr. Musa said in statements carried by the weekly newspaper AL-MUSAWWAR.

Asked if he thought Israeli air strikes on Palestinian positions in Lebanon this week heralded a major Israeli offensive, Mr. Musa said such an operation would be "extremely dangerous ... for peace and security in the region."

'Amr Musa Views Palestinian, Arms Curbs Issues

PM0506161191 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
31 May 91 p2

[Hanan al-Badri report: "In an Exclusive Statement to AL-WAFD, 'Amr Musa Says: There Can Be No Stability Without Settlement of the Palestinian Question and Removal of Mass Destruction Weapons"]

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that there can be no stability in the Middle East without the settlement of the Palestinian question which is causing so much Arab anxiety. He said there is a need to stop the flow of arms to the Middle East, which should be declared a demilitarized zone, particularly free from weapons of mass destruction. In an exclusive statement to AL-WAFD, 'Amr Musa said that the Palestinian question requires immediate movement toward a quick and urgent solution. He reaffirmed Egypt's support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to their own independent state.

The foreign minister said that Egypt very much regrets and fully rejects the settlement of Falasha Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He underscored Egypt's consistent role as one of leading members of the nonaligned group, the Arab League, the Organization of African Unity, and the Islamic world. He confirmed that there are no changes and no new factors in Egypt's foreign policy and that Egypt always works for peace. He also reaffirmed Egypt's interest in the Mediterranean

region and in contributing effectively to its policies, particularly in connection with problems of the environment, drugs, and health.

'Amr Musa pointed out that Arab reunion is not a mere slogan but a realistic policy which must take its sound course. On the idea of unity between Egypt and Libya, he said that the prerequisites of unity must be fulfilled before it can be achieved. He added: I believe unity is a long-term issue.

The foreign minister stressed Egypt's faith in the role and effectiveness of the Arab League in tackling all Arab causes and problems. He said that Arab contacts are continuing on security arrangements and Arab solidarity.

He also reaffirmed Egypt's belief in the need to preserve the territorial integrity and unity of the African states and prevent harm to their peoples. That, he said, applies to Somalia and Ethiopia, whose territorial integrity we support.

Ghali Comments on Peace Efforts, African Ties

NC0106184391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1427 GMT
1 Jun 91

[Text] Beirut, 1 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations, has called on Israel not to waste "this rare historic opportunity" to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East. In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR today, Dr. Ghali referred to Israel's attempts to delay the efforts to find a solution until after the U.S. presidential elections. He said the Israeli leadership is aware that stability in the Middle East would provide "an unprecedented opportunity" for it, along with the other states in the region, to enjoy peace, development, and cooperation with its neighbors.

Dr. Ghali affirmed that Egypt is continually working with various Arab and international parties to promote the peace effort in the Middle East.

Regarding Syria's role in the peace process, Dr. Ghali said that, in view of Syria's position as a leading frontline state, no comprehensive settlement that will bring stability and peace to the Middle East can be achieved without it.

Dr. Ghali also said that Egypt's relations with the Nile Valley states and the Horn of Africa are governed by firm principles, based on the achievement of stability and peace in this region, which is of vital strategic importance to Egypt's national security and interests.

'Amr Musa Outlines Foreign Policy Principles

NC0306203391 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt
Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Egypt is exerting its utmost efforts to activate the peace process in

the Middle East in coordination with all Arab, regional, and international parties concerned with security and peace in the region and the world.

In a statement to a joint session of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations and Arab Affairs Committees tonight, he stressed that Egypt is playing an indispensable role in Arab and regional affairs and will continue to be an integral part of the Arab world. He added that Egypt's actions during the Gulf crisis were based on its conviction that the cohesiveness, development, and progress of the Arab world require legitimacy and respect for rights.

The foreign minister said the following principles guide Egyptian policy: the Palestinian issue is the central issue of the peace process; there can be no peace or stability as long as the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights remain usurped; a comprehensive peace cannot be achieved without a solution based on international legitimacy; peace requires that all parties recognize each other's rights and responsibilities; and retaining others' territories by force and maintaining a policy of fait accompli do not promote peace. He added that Egypt stresses the principle of exchanging land for peace, that a lasting peace must be based on balancing the interests and commitments of all concerned parties, and that all countries and parties concerned must be directly represented at the conference. He noted that the Palestinian people's representation in the proposed peace conference is important to the Palestinians and the Arab parties, and that Egypt will welcome whatever decision the Palestinians reach on this issue.

He stressed that the continued building of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories violates international legitimacy and impedes the start of negotiations on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that, for this reason, Egypt seriously calls on the Israeli Government to stop building settlements. The foreign minister emphasized the importance of eliminating weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East, especially nuclear ones.

He stressed Egypt's desire to continue its pan-Arab duty of defending Arab countries' independence and sovereignty within the framework of the Arab League, the Joint Arab Defense Pact, and the Damascus Declaration. He said President Husni Mubarak's policy has made Egypt an oasis of security and stability.

He added that the Paris Club agreement is evidence of Egyptian policy's credibility.

Regarding recent international developments, Musa said that Egypt supports the territorial integrity of the Horn of Africa countries, as this is indispensable to stability in that region. He added that Egypt has declared its commitment to Somalia's territorial integrity and is closely following developments in Ethiopia and hopes that the recent events will restore stability there.

Sidqi Receives Kuwaiti Minister, Message*NC0506150591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1359 GMT
5 Jun 91*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi received Dhari al-Uthman, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, in his office today.

Al-Uthman said that he had conveyed a message from Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, to Dr. Sidqi, stressing the profound ties between Egypt and Kuwait. These ties became firmer and were enhanced after Egypt's principled stand on the side of right during Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

He added that Dr. Sidqi gave him a detailed explanation of the constants Egypt observes in its relations with Kuwait. He noted that the meeting, which was useful, is a link in the series of contacts that enrich the ties between the two countries.

Dr. Sidqi said the Kuwaiti minister asserted the Kuwaiti Government's concern and guarantee for all rights of Egyptians in Kuwait.

The meetings was attended by Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs.

U.S. Ambassador Concludes Tour, Departs*NC0606080191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt
Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Jun 91*

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner left Cairo this morning at the end of his 5-year tour of duty as ambassador of the United States to Egypt. Ambassador Wisner will serve as his country's ambassador to the Philippines. Before his departure, the U.S. ambassador praised President Mubarak's policy and described it as wise. He emphasized that there is strong friendship between the United States and Egypt, as he felt it during his tour in Egypt since 1986.

Opposition Stages Sit-ins on Emergency Law*NC0606105891 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic
3 Jun 91 p 2*

[Adil Hijazi Dispatch]

[Excerpts] The leaders, members, youth, and workers of the Liberal Party staged a sit-in at the party's headquarters in 'Abidin and at local party branches on Friday, 31 May 1991, to protest the extension of the emergency law. [passage omitted]

Sit-ins were also staged in the Wafd and Labor Parties headquarters in Cairo and the governorates. The participants from the three parties issued the following statement:

The opposition parties and some vocational unions have responded to the call for a symbolic sit-in on Friday, 31 May 1991, to emphasize the collective rejection of the

extension of the emergency law for another three years. The opposition parties, political leaders, and trade unionists who took part in the sit-in have emphasized that the sit-in is the first step on the road to continuous and systematic resistance of the policy of imposing the emergency law on the people. This method of expression must be promoted until the desired objectives are realized and until a free and stable political life is achieved under the law and Constitution.

They also affirmed that the aim behind the continued imposition of the unjust laws is to protect the existing regime from the people's wrath because of the regime's response to the conditions imposed on it from abroad. These conditions have caused the imposition of various taxes, price increases, and cancellations of various subsidies.

The imposition of these laws also aims at defending the regime and at preventing the people from freely expressing their will and enjoying a democratic rule through parties and democratic institutions.

The Egyptian political forces reiterate that the continued imposition of the emergency law is politically unjustified and that the claim that the aim of the law is to confront terrorism is baseless. They said that the crimes and political assassinations have all taken place with the emergency law still in force. They stressed the need for joint political action to undermine these laws which lack legal precepts and that the only way to undermine them is through a continuous systematic popular move.

Libya**Bendjedid Phones Al-Qadhdhafi on Situation***LD0506181291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1755 GMT
5 Jun 91*

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Jun (JANA)—A telephone conversation has taken place between the brother leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the fraternal Republic of Algeria. President Chadli Bendjedid reassured the brother leader of the revolution on the situation in Algeria, affirming that the situation is under control there.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Andreotti; Accords Signed*LD0506220991 Tripoli Libyan Television Network
in Arabic 1932 GMT 5 Jun 91*

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received at midday today Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, who visited the Great Jamahiriyyah today. The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee and secretaries of the people's committees of the People's Bureaus for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, Strategic Industries, and Economic Planning. It was also attended by the under-secretary of the Italian Foreign Ministry.

Afterwards an in-camera meeting was held between the two sides, which resulted in the issuance of the following minutes:

Follows the text of minutes of an agreement between the Great Jamahiriya and Italy signed in Tripoli today:

The Italian Prime Minister His Excellency Giulio Andreotti paid a working visit to the great socialist people's libyan arab jamahiriya. He was received by the brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, leader of the great Fatih revolution.

The two sides examined the main topics, focussing on current international events. As far as the Mediterranean region is concerned the two sides affirmed the need to exert all efforts to consolidate peace, stability, and security in the region.

The two sides furthermore asserted their commitment to endeavor to cooperate for the sake of security in the Mediterranean region. The two sides condemned the production, stocking, and use of chemical and biological weapons.

The two sides noted, in this respect, the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which has been ratified by the two sides, and called on all other countries to ratify it.

The Italian side valued the efforts underway to bring about integration between the Arab Maghreb Union member countries, based on the conviction that such an integration will be beneficial to aims of peace and prosperity.

The two sides expressed their eagerness to give fresh impetus to their bilateral relations. The two sides moreover affirmed their desire to realize a qualitative step forward in the development of their relations of cooperation.

The two sides have agreed upon the following:

1. In the political sphere, the two sides have agreed to increase bilateral contacts at all levels.
2. In the economic sphere, the two sides are to examine projects of programs of assistance in the following fields:

To assist the great socialist people's libyan arab jamahiriya in combatting desertification; in the man-made river project; in the utilization of other water resources; in the [building] of desalinization plants; in the use of all kind of energy resources, including oil, gas and resources of alternative energy, with due care for the protection of the environment; in the removal of mines and the remnants of war from the land; and in urging other European countries to do the same.

The two sides have agreed to encourage joint investments and create suitable conditions for increasing mutual trade volume.

3. In the cultural sphere: The two sides have agreed to expand the field of cooperation in this sphere, including

cooperation in the field of archaeology and surveys, and to exchange minutes, student grants and television cooperation [as heard].

4. Given the importance of the need to begin sound cooperation in the social and humanitarian fields, the two sides have decided to form a joint committee for this purposes. Among its duties will be the search for means which might help in pointing out possibilities of cooperation between the two countries, the transfer of remains of Libyans from Italy, and the search for their relatives.

At the end of their talks the two sides expressed their hope to strengthen bonds of friendship between the two peoples so as to contribute to stability, peace, and love in the region.

Andreotti Cited on Talks

LD0506232991 Tripoli Libyan Television Network
in Arabic 1932 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti has asserted that his talks with the brother of the revolution were successful and important and held in an atmosphere of understanding. He added in a statement to journalists that his positive talks were centered upon the means for bolstering bilateral relations for the sake of the two peoples—the Libyan Arab and Italian—prosperity, and on international topics of mutual interest. He added: We are able to carry out common action to resolve all problems.

In the course of his appraisal of the atmosphere in which his talks were held, as well as his talks with the brother leader of the revolution during their meeting at noon today, he said: I believe there is great sincerity between the two countries; we are working for the sake of our two peoples' prosperity in order to contribute to the amelioration of the situation in this part of the Mediterranean. We have talked about problems which affect us directly and other international problems which are of a heavy weight. At this moment I think it is possible to carry out a good job together, he added. [passage omitted]

Al-Bishari Sees Hostage Freed in 'Near Future'

NC3105175491 Paris AFP in English 1741 GMT
31 May 91

[Text] Abuja, Nigeria, May 31 (AFP)—The remaining Western hostages in Lebanon could be released soon, Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari said here Friday.

"Things are progressing and these hostages may be released in the near future," Mr. Bishari told AFP on the basis of information he had "just received."

The minister, attending a meeting of the OAU, did not elaborate. He stressed that Libya had "no relations with the kidnappers."

"The important thing is their release," Mr. Bishari said, noting that Libya was "opposed to taking hostages in principle."

He said he hoped the hostages would be released "unconditionally and for humanitarian reasons."

The 12 Western hostages in Lebanon "could be released in the days or weeks ahead," he said.

Morocco

Spokesman Denies Report of Polisario Meeting

LD0106094391 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Morocco has categorically denied that King Hasan II requested a meeting with the secretary general of the Polisario.

A statement by a spokesman for the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and cooperation yesterday evening said that the content of the news item dissipated by the AFP was untrue.

King Hassan Receives Nigerian Minister

LD0106133191 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Rabat, 1 June 1991, MAP—King Hassan II received at the royal palace in Rabat yesterday evening Zakari Ibrahim, the Nigerian minister of state for external affairs, envoy of the president of Nigeria to him the king. Zakari announced upon his arrival in Rabat on 30 May that he was carrying a message from the president of Nigeria, Ibrahim Babaginda, to the Moroccan monarch. The Nigerian minister described relations between Morocco and Nigeria as excellent and pointed to the identity of the two countries views on international issues.

Minister of State Ends Visit

LD0206173291 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Rabat, 2 Jun (MAP)—Zakari Ibrahim the Nigerian minister of state for external affairs, concluded a visit to Morocco during which he handed a message to King Hassan II from Nigerian president Ibrahim Babaginda. [passage omitted]

Human Rights Group Founded in Rabat

LD0106223891 Rabat MAP in English 1251 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Rabat, 1 Jun (MAP)—A "human rights" section was incepted Friday [1 June] within the Rabat-based National Institute of Judiciary Studies.

Presented by Mohamed Mikou, secretary general of the Consultative Council for Human Rights (CCDH), the

first lecture of the newly-born section dealt with the motives that were behind the setting up of the CCDH, namely the call by international organizations on member countries to set up human rights bodies in their countries.

Dealing with internal motives, Mikou said these are accounted for by the particular importance King Hassan II grants human rights in Morocco.

Mikou also reviewed the activities of the CCDH since its inception, with emphasis on the inception of three working groups to examine custody arrest and preventive detention in practice, the situation in prisons, and information and contacts with international organizations.

Mikou pointed out that the three working groups submitted proposals in the form of memoranda to the high appreciation of the sovereign who approved them.

Though recently set up, Mikou went on, the CCDH has already a considerably positive portfolio, even to the eyes of Amnesty International.

Sudan

'Respect' for Ethiopian Choice Reiterated

EA3106230591 Khartoum SUNA in French 1610 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] Khartoum, 31 May (SUNA)—Sudan has reiterated its absolute confirmation of the principle of good-neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of others and reconfirmed its respect for the choice of the Ethiopian people. [Word indistinct] during the meeting of the Department of Peace and External Affairs yesterday, Thursday. The meeting, which studied the development of the situation in Ethiopia and its effects on Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, stressed the necessity of promoting Sudanese-Ethiopian relations in order to maintain stability in the two countries.

Interior Minister Reassures Ethiopian Refugees

EA0206194891 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 31 May 91

[Excerpt] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers and minister of the interior, arrived in Kassala today on an inspection visit to the sites accomodating Ethiopian arrivals who have poured into Sudan in large numbers, in order to acquaint himself with their conditions.

His excellency reassured them that Sudan will provide every help and assistance to the brother refugees and that Sudan will share its daily bread with the Ethiopian brothers. He also extended an invitation to all the organizations to provide help and support to these

brothers. His excellency also confirmed that [word indistinct] quantities of medicines, food, and health teams will arrive during the coming days. [passage omitted]

Appeal for Urgent Relief Items for Ethiopians

EA0406143091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Retired Major General Ahmad Mahmud Hasan, justice minister, attorney general, and acting government spokesman, has repeated a call to the international community and humanitarian and relief organizations to provide urgent relief items to the Ethiopian refugees who crossed Sudan's eastern frontiers last week.

His excellency said that the refugees have been settled in four camps in the Eastern State, and that Sudan has provided maximum care for them, mobilizing all concerned bodies to face the situation. The official spokesman reiterated Sudan's stance in supporting the Ethiopian people's choice and the decisions they may reach in relation to their future and [word indistinct].

Ethiopian People's Party Offices Closed Down

AB0606080091 Paris AFP in English 1802 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Nairobi, June 5 (AFP)—The Sudan Government has officially closed down the offices of the rebel Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP) in Sudan, restricted movement of its personnel and confiscated office equipment and other properties.

An EPRP statement received here Wednesday said the action was taken following demands by Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) and its allied Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). EPRDF Chairman Meles Zenawi had made a "specific demand" for the closure of the EPRP offices during a brief stopover in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, on his way to Addis Ababa, which the EPRDF rebels had seized on Tuesday last week, the statement said. The statement charged that Mr. Zenawi had also called for the imprisonment or handing over of EPRP members of his forces.

As a result, it said, some 23 EPRP members arrested by Sudan after clashes between EPRDF and EPRP forces at the border town of Taya in April-May had been handed over to the EPRDF. At least three were speedily executed at Gabalat, a Sudanese border town, while one is said to have died under torture in the town of Taya, the statement charged, warning that the lives of EPRP representatives and members who have now been arrested in Sudan were in danger.

In another statement, the EPRP said that the explosion on Tuesday of arms and ammunition at a depot in Addis Ababa, which killed more than 100 people, "was actually caused by a fight between the depot's guards and the EPRDF forces who wanted to take complete control and not by saboteurs".

"During the fight, the EPRDF troops used bazookas and mortars, while tanks of EPLF's mechanized brigade fired shells which eventually caused the conflagration and subsequent explosion", the statement said. "The EPRDF's claim that saboteurs are responsible is to cover up its own grave mistake, and to accuse directly or by insinuation other forces is to seek to derail the July 1 transitional national conference and thereby lay the ground for intensified repression", the EPRP's statement warned. EPRP rebels, who had been battling forces of the Mengistu regime mainly Welo and Gojam regions have, together with another EPRDF-allied rebel movement, the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), expressed reservations on the installation of the EPRDF administration in Addis Ababa by the American Government.

'Maximum State of Emergency' Claimed in Health

EA3105200091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] Dr. Khayri 'Abd-al-rahman, the Health Ministry's first undersecretary, has issued a statement in which he proclaimed a maximum state of emergency in the country's health and medical services due to the influx of large numbers of refugees into Sudan, caused by the situation in neighboring Ethiopia. His excellency directed that the Medical Supplies Department should work round the clock. Likewise, all the employees in the medical services, assisting personnel, and nurses have been called out to work so as to be of benefit if need be in the field of work in the eastern and central states.

The statement called on hospital directors in the eastern and central states to proclaim a state of emergency in their hospitals in preparation for what the situation may demand. His excellency directed the Virus Unit at the National Central Factory and [word indistinct] in the Khartoum and central states to announce a state of maximum preparation starting from today, Friday.

Tunisia

RCD Secretary General Receives PRC's Qiao Shi

LD0306195391 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Excerpts] A working session was held this morning at Democratic Constitutional Rally [RCD] House between an RCD delegation, headed by Chedli Neffati, RCD secretary general; and a Chinese Communist Party [CPC] delegation headed by Qiao Shi, member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Politburo.

At the beginning of this session, Chedli Neffati underlined the ancient and strong relations between Tunisia and China and their peoples and between the RCD and CPC as two of the oldest parties in the Third World. [passage omitted]

Qiao Shi underlined his country's interest in what happened and what is happening in the Tunisia of the new era. [passage omitted]

The two sides expressed their desire to work toward consolidating relations between the two countries and the two parties. They also discussed possibilities of developing relations between the RCD and the CPC through an exchange of expertise and delegations.

We would like to point out that the Chinese official arrived in Tunis last night at the invitation of the RCD.

House of Representatives Assails Ennahdah

LD0406181591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] The House of Representatives issued at its general session today a statement in which it denounced the terrorist scheme of the so-called Ennahdah Movement. After reviewing what had happened recently in terms of violence and stirring sedition within the ranks of the Tunisian people with the aim of seizing power, and summing up the deliberations of the representatives this morning, the house stressed the grave impact of these actions on the security of the country, its stability and inviolability through the attempt to encroach upon the institutions of the republican system and transgress on the very nature of the state. It considered these forlorn attempts as a threat to the democratic process and a hindrance to the course of development.

The house registered the honorable stand of the Tunisian people, and its various political and social forces, as displayed in their unity and high level of maturity and awareness in the confrontation in defense of the pillars of civilized society and the protection of the achievements of the homeland. The house appreciated the great effort of the internal security forces to foil these terrorist practices.

The House of Representatives denounced the failed attempts of some of those tested by the Tunisian people and known for their political bankruptcy in harming the

reputation of our country and plotting against its interests and the constituents of its independence.

The house took this opportunity to renew its absolute support to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for his staunchness in taking strict measures to face up to these deviations in order to guarantee the progress of the country and to realize the objectives of the Tunisian people in security, stability, and progress.

Hunt for Fundamentalists Launched in Tunis

LD0506194891 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] The sudden upsurges of tension in Algeria is naturally closely followed in other Maghreb countries, in particular in Tunisia. Now the details from Tunis with Rida Boughezi:

[Begin Boughezi recording] No official reaction yet in Tunis, the press does not comment either on what is happening in Algeria but Tunisians as a whole follow these events both with great anxiety and with relief. Some are tempted to draw a parallel: They are worried to see the Algerian syndrom infecting Tunisia where Islamists maintain close relations with Abassi Madani's Islamic Salvation Front. Others are anxious about the fate of their relatives who live in Algeria where the Tunisian community numbers, in particular, hundreds of students. But the overwhelming majority of Tunisians are expressing relief, relief to note that officials in their country preempted events and did not let the situation deteriorate like in Algeria. The discovery of a fundamentalist plot against President Ben 'Ali's regime provoked the arrests of more than 300 Islamists, among them 100 soldiers according to official figures. But the cleaning-up campaigns started by police seem to go on. This morning at dawn a large operation aiming at hunting down fundamentalists was launched in a sensitive district in a suburb north of Tunis. It is not yet known if this operation resulted in arrests. That being said, it seems that public opinion approves the tactics used by the authorities to counter the fundamentalists, attack is the best defense and also, as people like to repeat in the streets of Tunis, Tunisia is not Algeria. [end recording]

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Lauds 'Successful' GCC Session

LD0306194391 London KUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT
3 Jun 91

[Text] Kuwait, 3 Jun (KUNA)—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has praised the results of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] session which was concluded in Dahrn today and described it as successful.

In a statement to KUNA after his return to Kuwait this evening, he pointed out that among other issues the session discussed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He pointed out that the GCC countries have reiterated their absolute support for Kuwait.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah added that during the meeting they agreed on the creation of a preparatory committee to prepare for the meeting of the signatories of the Damascus declaration—the GCC countries, Egypt, and Syria—which will be held in Kuwait next month.

He said that the council also discussed other Arab and international issues in addition to the Syrian-Lebanese treaty, for which the council emphasized its support.

Cabinet Discusses Cease-Fire, Border With Iraq

LD0506184291 London KUNA in Arabic 1244 GMT
5 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 5 Jun (KUNA)—The cabinet held a meeting today at the headquarters of the premiership under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd Al-Wahab al-Fawzan, the minister of public health and acting minister of state in charge of cabinet affairs, indicated that the cabinet discussed the details of measures related to the implementation of articles stipulated by Security Council Resolution 687 concerning Iraq's commitments as a condition for the cease-fire between the allied forces, Kuwait, and the Iraqi regime, in light of an elaborate explanation made by Kuwait's permanent representative to the United Nations, Muhammad Abu al-Hasan. He dealt with the aspects of related to sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime in order to guarantee the entire implementation of all the articles of the resolution, in particular securing the safety of

POW's and those missing, and their return to their families as quickly as possible. The demarcation of borders between Kuwait and Iraq in accordance to the treaties and agreements adopted by the Security Council was discussed, in addition to the issue of compensation and the role of the fund which as been set up at the United Nations to compensate countries and individuals for the damage caused by the treacherous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Al-Fawzan said that the cabinet discussed all these details and the steps to be taken by the quarters in question to secure the full implementation of the aforementioned resolution so that the legitimate rights of Kuwaitis are preserved. He added that the cabinet also discussed a number of other issues and made the appropriate decisions concerning them.

Japanese Minesweepers Begin Gulf Operations

OW0506160891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1432 GMT
5 Jun 91

[Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, June 5 KYODO—A task force of Japanese minesweepers Wednesday began mine-clearing operations in the Persian Gulf waters off Kuwait, Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) officials said.

The group of four minesweepers started clearing mines laid by Iraqi forces during the Persian Gulf war in waters 100 kilometers east of Kuwait after U.S. helicopters had first swept the area, the officials said.

Minesweepers from eight countries, including the United States and Britain, have so far cleared more than 1,000 of an estimated total of nearly 1,200 mines.

The Japanese minesweepers have been set to work with U.S. ships in a sea area of about 600 square kilometers.

The operations will be conducted in one-month stages and the task force is planning to stop in Bahrain around July 5 for the crew's rest and recreation, the sources said.

Apart from mines in the waters off Kuwait, the Japanese vessels may also sweep mines in Iraqi territorial waters or waters off Saudi Arabia but operations are expected to be completed by the end of August, the sources said.

An English daily in Dubai reported Wednesday the U.S. forces are estimating the nine-country minesweeping operations to be completed by September 1.

Minister Critical of UN War Reparations Figure

JN0106203991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT
1 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jun (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has criticized UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for recommending that 30 percent of Iraq's oil revenues be used for war reparations.

In a statement to INA, the minister said that when he determined that percentage, the UN secretary general did not take into account all the destruction inflicted on Iraq as a result of the aggressive war and the sabotage carried by the demagogues during the second chapter of the war.

The minister added that the UN secretary general based his calculations on Iraq's average civilian requirements in the eighties, while the whole world knows that Iraq's economy during the eighties was a war economy that exhausted most of its revenues, of which Iraq used only a small part for civilian needs.

The minister also stressed that Perez de Cuellar's dismissal of these facts seeks to deliberately harm the Iraqi people and their efforts to rebuild their economy.

International Community Urged To Lift Blockade

JN0306134991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1202 GMT
3 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)—Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud 'Abdallah has urged prompt action from the international community and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization to get the economic blockade against the Iraqi people lifted and to make it possible for the country to get what it needs for its agricultural plans.

He told INA that before the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq, the ministry had contracted with a number of foreign firms for the purchase of agricultural and irrigation machinery, pesticides, improved seeds, and animal feed required for agricultural projects to secure food for the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Meets Under Hammadi, Reviews Customs Law

JN0506163091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 June 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a regular session under Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi today. The session was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi and other officials.

Minister of Culture and Information Hamid Yusuf Hammadi told INA that in its session, the council discussed topics on its agenda and made the required decisions on them. The minister said that among the most important topics discussed were the customs law and the formation of a tourism committee. He said the

council decided to restudy the Justice Ministry and Transport and Communications Ministry laws.

U.S. Airspace Violations Protested at UN

2-3 June

JN0406185391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] U.S. aircraft committed further violations of Iraqi airspace 2-3 June for purposes of observation and provocation. In a memorandum to the UN secretary general, Iraq's UN permanent representative explained that the U.S. aircraft mounted nine sorties in four formations, in addition to an individual sortie, mainly over the Irbil and al-'Imadiyah areas.

4-5 June

JN0506202091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT
5 Jun 91

[Text] New York, 5 Jun (INA)—U.S. aircraft have violated Iraqi airspace for purpose of observation and provocation.

In a memo to UN secretary general, Iraq's UN permanent representative said that U.S. aircraft carried out five sorties 4-5 June.

He indicated that the aircraft, which flew at speeds of 720-800 km per hour and at (low altitudes), mainly overflew the areas of Mosul, Dahuk, Zakho, Irbil, and al-'Amadiyah.

Al-Nasr Space Communications Station Reopens

JN0306165791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT
3 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)—The al-Nasr Station for Space Communications via the Arab Satellite, ARAB-SAT, was inaugurated today after ceasing operations for 137 days as a result of the American aggression against Iraq. The station's technical teams today reopened telephone, telex, and television links with Algeria through ARABSAT with four telephone channels.

Ghassan 'Abd-al-Razzaq, director general of the State Enterprise for Communications and Post, said that the station's technical teams today began administrative procedures with Arab space communications stations in all Arab countries that are members of the Arab Organization for Space Communications to reconnect them to the al-Nasr station.

He added that the station's technical teams succeeded in repairing the electronic monitoring system destroyed by the aggression aircraft.

The INA correspondent, who was present at the station, watched the beginning of the exchange of telephone, telex, and television services by means of news dispatches and television programs. Jordanian television

news was received and recorded. Other programs will be received later from Arab stations.

The state enterprise that carries out transportation and communications projects repaired the station with Iraqi cadres at a cost of 230,000 Iraqi dinars.

Arab Popular Conference To Be Held in July

JN0506142791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT
5 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jun (INA)—The Ba'th Party Regional Command Foreign Relations Office has called for an expanded meeting of the secretariat of the Arab popular conference in Baghdad in early July.

In its issue today, ALIF BA' magazine says that the secretariat, which stems from the conference in Sanaa on 10 February and comprises Iraq, Tunisia, Jordan, Algeria, Yemen, Sudan, and Palestine will study the developments of the situation following the cease-fire. It will also follow up the implementation of the conference's decisions and the formation of its organizational bodies to mobilize the Arab masses to put into effect the conference's objectives.

The magazine says that a preliminary meeting was held with secretariat members 'Abdallah Hurani and Lieutenant General Mashhur Hadithah for holding this meeting, and that contacts were held with other Arab political parties to attend the conference.

Talabani Issues Message on PUK Anniversary

NC0306183091 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
of Kurdistan in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], yesterday addressed an important message on the 16th anniversary of the PUK to our struggling masses, PUK members, and brave peshmerga fighters in Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

Talabani stressed the need to unify the Kurdish liberation movement and people by establishing a new organization, now that the popular uprising in Kurdistan has created a new situation requiring that we all work together to achieve the noble democratic and national objectives of the Kurds and Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

Talabani said that the PUK calls for all peshmerga factions in Kurdistan to be united into a single modern force. It also calls for uniting all Kurdish forces, factions, and trends in a democratic and progressive organization in which everyone has the right to express his views. The relevant plans should be drawn up by a preparatory committee consisting of representatives from all like-minded parties, factions, and groups so that all factions in Kurdistan can finally be united and we can strengthen the Iraqi Kurdistan Front. In this way, we can mobilize the largest numbers of our people to establish democracy in Iraq, secure their rights in Kurdistan in a free and democratic Iraq, and find a political and democratic

solution to their just demands. To do this, we must successfully conclude the ongoing political negotiations between the Kurdistan Front and the Iraqi Government.

Talabani said that all of Kurdistan's people—Kurds, Turkomans, and Assyrians—as well as the Iraqi people are patiently awaiting the outcome of these negotiations and have high hopes for their success. For our part, we in the Kurdistan Front and the PUK will persevere with the dialogue to ensure its success and prevent us from forgetting the past and the oppression, persecution, and destruction our people and our Kurdistan have suffered. We hope that a just and permanent peace that provides for democracy and real autonomy will be achieved in Kurdistan.

Talabani said that the first prerequisite for the success of these negotiations and a just and final solution to the Kurdish problem is recognition of the fact that the Iraqi people are composed of two nationalities, Arabs and Kurds, in addition to national minorities, such as Assyrians and Turkomans.

This truth is clear and cannot be altered by claims to the contrary, including the most recent one by Iraqi Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, who said that Iraq—land and people—is part of the Arab nation. This statement implies that the Iraqi Kurds are Arabs and part of the Arab nation and that the land of Kurdistan is part of the Arab land. These erroneous and irresponsible statements lead us to insist that the Iraqi officials stop speaking and thinking in this way. They must also give up the idea of Arabizing Kurdistan and its people by force, because this will continue to be a source of problems, will destroy brotherly relations between Arabs and Kurds, and will threaten Iraq's unity. [passage omitted]

The second prerequisite for the ongoing negotiations success and the Kurdish problem's solution is the establishment of democracy and democratic freedoms throughout Iraq, from Zakho to al-Basrah and from Khanaqin to 'Anah. Democracy solves all problems and can guarantee Iraq's national unity, Arab-Kurdish brotherhood, and Kurdistan's autonomy.

The third prerequisite for the negotiations' success and a solution to the Kurdistan problem is that real autonomy must include all regions of Kurdistan, which will be run by its Kurdish, Turkoman, Assyrian, and Arab inhabitants. No part of Kurdistan should remain outside the autonomous region and thus serve as a blatant example of the Arabization policy pursued in Kurdistan.

Talabani mentioned two weak excuses used by some to try to carve out parts of Kurdistan from the autonomous region. The first excuse involves Iraq's national security. The regime is trying to carve out important parts of Kurdistan, including Khanaqin, Mandali, and Sinjar. We do not know what logic, law, or evidence judges the Kurdish people a threat to Iraq's national security. Throughout their history the Kurdish people have been supportive brothers to the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

The second excuse is the claim that the economic situation will lead Iraqi Kurdistan to secede. The Iraqi Government has used this to explain its refusal to return Karkuk to the autonomous region, insisting that its return would threaten Iraq's unity. We say: 1) Everybody acknowledges the Kurds are not secessionists. The current Iraqi president stressed this point himself in a recent statement to the Turkish newspaper *MILLIYET*. 2) Everybody knows that any attempt to change the current map will not be accepted by the international community. Even if the Kurds wanted to secede, they would not be able to change the borders of five states—the USSR, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. The Kurdish movement is fully aware of this fact. [passage omitted]

The fourth prerequisite for the negotiations' success and the Kurdistan problem's solution is to redress Kurdish wrongs. This can be done by removing the vestiges of repressive policies in Kurdistan, such as Arabization and destruction, releasing the thousands of political detainees, and providing information on the whereabouts of the thousands of Kurdish women, children, and men who were victims of arbitrary arrest. [passage omitted] This should be accompanied by reconstruction in Kurdistan, the revival of its economy, and the return of millions of stolen heads of livestock. Simply put, this means eliminating the policies of racial discrimination, terrorism, lawlessness, arbitrary arrest and expulsion, and destruction in Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

Talabani Cited on Progress in Talks With Baghdad

Interviewed on Negotiations

TA0306195091 Ankara TRT Television Network
in Turkish 1800 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Mithat Bereket for the "32d Day" program in Shaqlawah, Iraq; date not given—recorded, in English with superimposed Turkish translation]

[Text] [Bereket] What urged Kurdish leaders to sit at the negotiating table with Saddam Husayn? How will they be able to trust the person who issued death warrants against them and whom they fought for years? We asked Talabani, who was the first one to start negotiations with Saddam, those questions.

[Talabani] For years we tried to overthrow Saddam Husayn's regime. We tried to replace it with a democratic government. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful. Saddam tried to crush and eliminate us, even using gas, but he also failed. Moreover, he realized that he cannot govern people in that manner. He felt that the balance of powers had changed. Finally, we all realized that we are unable to attain what we want. Then we sat at the negotiating table and began seeking conciliation.

[Bereket] The question is: Who will drill for oil in this area? Who will use the oil and who will benefit from its

income? On this subject, Talabani is very clear. He claims that his proposals are very fair.

[Talabani] Karkuk must remain within the autonomous region. The oil and other natural resources must be drilled for by the central government, but the income must be equally shared among all Iraqis—Arabs, Kurds, Turkomans, and other minorities.

[Bereket] According to Talabani, Saddam must change. If Saddam really wants to democratize the country, then he must prove it.

[Talabani] He must change his old policies. Otherwise, this issue will never end. If, as he claims he will do, Saddam introduces and respects democracy, pluralism, freedom of the press, and human rights, then Iraqi's policy will change fundamentally. If he grants the Kurds their rights, rather than trying to annihilate them, then we will witness the beginning of a great change. Without those changes, we cannot talk about negotiations or cooperation. We are Kurds, but we are also Iraqis. Whatever guarantees we are given will be meaningless for the Kurdish people unless there is genuine democracy in Baghdad.

[Bereket] Talabani does not want the foreign forces in Iraq to withdraw immediately. In other words, he is saying to them: Support us, and you will be able to leave northern Iraq sooner.

[Talabani] We are grateful to everyone who helped and supported our people: the U.S., British, French, and other European governments, and of course the Turkish Government. We welcome the continued presence of foreign forces in the country until we are granted autonomy and our problem is resolved. One must not forget, however, that the Kurdish problem in Iraq is not a refugee problem. It is a national and political problem. To solve the refugee problem, you must first find a political solution to the Kurdish problem.

Says Rebels Ready To Fight

NC0406142391 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition
in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] The Kurdish Front has declared its readiness to resume the uprising against the tyrant's regime if it fails to obtain autonomy by peaceful means.

Jalal Talabani said the Kurdish revolutionaries are ready for peace, but they are also ready for war with their army and weapons, adding that the tyrant's regime will not be able to crush the popular uprising, whether in the north or the south. He stressed that peace is impossible as long as the dictator's regime is in power.

This is the first time Talabani has made such a threat since news began surfacing that the negotiations between Kurdish groups and the tyrant's regime may have broken down.

Affirms Protests Planned

NC0506160891 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition
in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and Mahmud 'Uthman, leader of the Socialist Party of Kurdistan, have said they are not optimistic about an imminent agreement with the tyrant's regime on the Kurdish demands for autonomy.

In statements yesterday, they asserted that the Kurdish forces will reunite to prepare for assaults on the tyrant's regime. They also affirmed that new demonstrations will take place in northern Iraq, which is occupied by the allied forces, to pressure the tyrant's regime. They said that the demonstrations in Dahuk, the storming of the ruling party building, and the killing of party members will recur if the allies begin to leave northern Iraq.

Talabani affirmed that there are many problems that had not been solved through negotiations and that he is beginning to lose confidence in reaching satisfactory results.

PUK Refutes Report on Talabani Statement

NC0406190691 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
of Kurdistan in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] The following is a clarification made by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] about a report published by the Turkish newspaper MILLIYET:

News agencies have cited a report in the Turkish newspaper MILLIYET which said that PUK Secretary General brother Jalal Talabani told its correspondent that he is no longer optimistic about reaching an agreement with the Iraqi Government, and, should the negotiations fail, our forces will resume military operations against it.

In fact, brother Jalal Talabani told MILLIYET's correspondent that we will do everything in our power to ensure the success of the current negotiations in Baghdad between our delegation and the government so an agreement can be reached for the peaceful solution of our people's problem. Talabani said that we will take military action only in self-defense.

Therefore, we declare that the report published by MILLIYET is untrue.

Rebels Report Attacks Against Regime Forces

NC0506065291 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq
in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Our heroic strugglers have launched an assault against 3d Corps headquarters, destroying an armored personnel carrier and killing its occupants. A number of mercenaries who were in the headquarters fled. A fire broke out in a number of vehicles [words indistinct]. After this surprise attack, our strugglers returned safely to base. Fires were seen in several locations in the area.

We give a salute of appreciation to our heroic strugglers and brave revolutionaries for continuing their crushing strikes against the remnants of the (?defeated) regime.

Our heroic strugglers launched a surprise attack against the headquarters of a brigade of the (?6th) Corps [words indistinct] in the city of al-'Amarah. Our heroic strugglers were great examples of heroism and bravery. Some (?30) of the regime's mercenaries were killed and two vehicles, a machine gun, and a number of radios were destroyed.

Earlier, our strugglers stopped a military vehicle on the al-'Amarah-al-Majarr al-Kabir highway. A number of the regime's mercenaries, including officer 'Isam Ahmad 'Uthman, were in the vehicle. After a clash between our strugglers and the mercenaries, the vehicle was destroyed and its occupants killed.

Paper Assails Bush's Arms Control Proposals

JN0306090991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0707 GMT
3 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the new American proposals are no more than a selective approach toward the region and that the U.S. Administration is still adopting double standards.

In an article today under the headline "New Proposals and Old Objectives," the paper says: Bush's plan or proposals do not include the removal of Israel's mass destruction weapons and are only aimed to impose an armament and technological blockade on the Arabs.

The paper ridicules the so-called contradictions between U.S. President George Bush's proposals on imposing restrictions on the sale of conventional and mass-destruction weapons to the Middle East region, and U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney's statements in which he voiced the United States' commitment to finance 72 percent of the Israeli antimissile missile, and to supply the Zionist entity with more sophisticated U.S. weapons.

The paper emphasizes that Bush's plan and Cheney's statements are in agreement on the objective and the results. They both express an old American policy and objectives, in the forefront of which is guaranteeing the Zionist entity's armament and military strategic supremacy over all the Arab states combined, and entrenching, or in fact deepening the huge technological gap between them, which poses a serious threat to pan-Arab security.

The paper says: All the Arabs have realized and they know full well that the United States does not allow them to possess any weapon that has a destructive capability equal to the nuclear weapons possessed by Israel, and that it does not allow the Arab-Zionist conflict to enter the stage of balanced and comprehensive deterrence between the two sides.

The paper adds: This American concern was one of the reasons behind the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq. It has been proven by Resolution 678 [number as received], which the U.S. Administration obtained from the UN Security Council following the cease-fire.

Concluding, the paper wonders whether Mr. Bush, who is not ignorant about Israel's possession of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, can call on his allies in Tel Aviv to dispose of these weapons.

Reparations To Keep People Poor, Humiliated

JN0306080991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT
3 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that the Iraqi people will never forget the injustice that is rancorously and wickedly being designed against them and will not forgive those who, through brute force and treacherous aggression, turned the world into a jungle, whose law is the infidel force.

In its editorial today, the paper attacks what it described as the new chapter in the conspiracy against Iraq being implemented under a UN cover and through clear cooperation and coordination with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to deprive Iraq of its economic wealth.

The paper emphasizes: The imposition of reparations and the deduction of 30 percent of Iraq's oil export revenues are not based on international law and directly conflict with the UN Charter itself. This is setting a serious precedent because the aggressive states have allowed themselves to play the role of the United

Nations and to form a committee based on a false and imposed resolution to serve their interests and rancor against Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH points to the true intentions and premeditated objectives against Iraq and its people which did not stop at aggression but went beyond this to plunder its oil wealth in accordance with a theatrical script, whose scenario began when Washington and London peddled a deduction of 50 percent to pave the way for Perez de Cuellar to appear to be adopting a humanitarian resolution when he later recommended a 30 percent deduction.

The paper says: Perez de Cuellar, without regard for his position, has premeditatedly sought to harm Iraq, one of the founder members of the United Nations. He did not take into consideration Iraq's economic conditions which were contained in a complete file prepared by his executive representative Mr. Sadruddin Aga Khan, who visited Iraq recently and acquainted himself with the destruction inflicted on it.

The paper adds: In short, the result of this new unjust resolution is embodied by an American-Atlantic-Zionist plan to make the Iraqi people poor and to humiliate them. This is flagrant interference in the Iraqi people's internal affairs and in their right to choose their political system and independent options in life.

The paper stresses that this percentage of deductions is not at all commensurate with Iraq's huge hard currency requirements, not only to reconstruct what was destroyed by the brutal American aggression, but also to secure its people's needs of food and medicine, to turn the wheels of economic life, and to live in the dignity bestowed on them by all human laws and charters and by all heavenly values and principles.

Shamir Reply to Bush May Allow Limited UN Role

TA0506163391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] In his reply to the U.S. President, Prime Minister Shamir may return to his proposal that the agreements achieved through direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs should be ratified [ye'ushreru] by the United Nations after the fact. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that this will be the Israeli reply to the demand to give the United Nations a status, be it even passive, in the political process.

In his reply, the prime minister will insist on Israel's principles, but will make an effort to pursue the political dialogue with the United States.

Shamir's reply will be sent to Washington within a few days.

Shamir Reacts to Levi Declaration on Conference

TA0506190991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. Shamir said this evening that he is awaiting Foreign Minister David Levi's return from abroad to hear on what the foreign minister was basing his declaration that a peace conference may convene in about a month. In answer to a question by our correspondent Gadi Sukenik, the prime minister said he assumes that the foreign minister's remarks are well-founded, but he himself does not yet know what the timetable for a possible conference will be.

The prime minister's answer to President Bush has not been relayed yet. Foreign Minister David Levi spoke to the prime minister twice on the telephone from Paris on this matter. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin reports that the final formulation of Shamir's letter of reply will be drawn after the foreign minister's return from Paris tomorrow.

The Prime Minister's Office this evening had no knowledge about a plan to get Mr. Shamir together with King Husayn, as announced by Luxembourg's foreign minister. At the same time, it was stressed that the prime minister is always prepared for such a meeting.

'Vision of Greater Israel' Reasserted by Shamir

TA0606062691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0405 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Report by Esti Schreck]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir still believes in the vision of Greater Israel. At a memorial service for the Jewish martyrs of pre-state Israel, held last night, Shamir stressed that the fact that we are an independent state which enjoys the recognition of other countries was also partly achieved by our adherence to the concept of Eretz Yisra'el.

[Begin Shamir recording] The love for our homeland, our eternal fidelity to the heritage and spirit of the people of Israel, the belief in an unceasing war for liberation—a war without pause or falter, without any retreat or compromise—the adherence to Eretz Yisra'el; all these have brought us to where we are now. [end recording]

We have still not reached a state of peace and tranquility, the prime minister asserted. There are still too many uninhabited areas in our homeland that we have not yet settled.

[Begin Shamir recording] There are still numerous enemies who lay in wait for us with their swords drawn and who await any weakness on our part in order to strike at us. We still have a long way to go before we achieve security and peace. [end recording]

Meridor Sees Noticeable Progress Toward Peace

TA0606103891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1005 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] An initial confirmation of Foreign Minister Levi's remarks about the impending convention of a regional peace conference came today from Justice Minister Dan Meridor. While visiting Bar-Ilan University, he said that there is a basis for the statements made by Minister Levi yesterday in Paris. Mikha'el Tuchfeld was with Minister Meridor and heard his remarks.

[Begin recording] [Tuchfeld] Justice Minister Meridor said that there has been noticeable progress in the political process over recent months, and there is agreement with the United States on a wide range of issues. Commenting on the apparent disagreements between the prime minister and the foreign minister, Meridor said:

[Meridor] Minister Levi will return from abroad shortly, and then we will hear his report. I must say that in the course of the contacts held over the past two months, there has been noticeable progress. We reached a great deal of understanding with the United States; however, there is still the fundamental question of whether the Arab side is willing to move forward on the peace process according to these proposals. I think we will be able to learn more in the coming days and then be more knowledgeable. I would not like to raise any eyebrows or make any declarations. Let us wait and see.

[Tuchfeld] Minister Meridor refused to directly comment on the apparent lack of communication between the prime minister and the foreign minister. [end recording]

Officials Comment on Recent Air Raids on Lebanon

Arens: Part of Unchanged Policy

TA0506131491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1230 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] The Israeli policy in Lebanon aims to guarantee the safety of our population in the north, Defense

Minister Moshe Arens said during today's debate in the Knesset plenum. The debate dealt with the Air Force raids in south Lebanon, among other issues.

[Begin Arens recording] The Air Force attacks against terrorists in south Lebanon in recent days are part of a policy that has not changed and will not change. We will attack every element in Lebanon that plans terrorist attacks against the State of Israel and the Israeli people.

We believe that it is important that Lebanon should again be a free and sovereign state, as it was in the past, and that it should regain its identity and uniqueness. Despite the recent Syrian successes, we hope that the process of Syria's takeover of Lebanon will eventually be halted, and that Lebanon will again become an independent country. [end recording]

Knesset members [MK's] Yosi Sarid [Citizens Rights Movement] and Ya'ir Tzaban [United Workers Party] demanded that the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee should hold an urgent discussion on the subject of the Air Force bombings in south Lebanon. Our Knesset affairs correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that the MK's said they had the impression that the government is more interested in harming the chances for peace than in damaging the terrorist bases.

MK Hanan Porat urged Minister Arens to define clear red lines that would discourage the Syrian Army from placing ground-to-ground missiles in the region.

Lubrani Cites Threat to Border

TA0506112891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1000 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] The government coordinator for activities in south Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, says the Israeli air strikes are meant to head off a terrorist threat to the northern border. Reporter Ya'akov Rosenberg asked Lubrani whether the Israeli military activities signalled the start of a wide-scale offensive:

[Begin recording] [Lubrani] None whatsoever. What you have been witnessing the last two, three days is activity designed to preempt threats. In our perception, this is business as usual; sometimes business is more brisk, sometimes less, but these are threats which have been becoming evident, and we found we had to do something about it—nothing out of the ordinary in this sense.

[Rosenberg] Well, the feeling among people who are observing the situation, at least from the Western aspect, is that Israel is now attempting to expel all of the terrorists from the Sidon and Tyre area and move them back up to Beirut where they originally came from.

[Lubrani] Well, I do not think this is something that Israel would like to do. It would like to see it possibly, but not to have anything to do with it physically because I think that what has to evolve is that these terrorists will

be disarmed, as they are not at this point in time, and will be told not to interfere in anything connected with activities against Israel.

[Rosenberg] Can we take the latest activities by the Air Force to mean that there is a specific threat by the terrorists, that they are trying to implement it now or are we talking about a sort of way to head off a possible offensive in the future?

[Lubrani] It is not a matter of heading off. When we see something festering and beginning to be too close and too dangerous for comfort we just act. We have done that before and we are going to continue doing that as long as we have these threats around us. You know, there are Palestinian threats, and of course, there are Hizballah threats. This time it was Palestinian targets, but by the same token we will act anywhere where we feel that there is something which is threatening enough for us to have to do something about it. [end recording]

Syria Urges PLO To Merge With Lebanese Army

TA0606085091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
6 Jun 91 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Syria has called on the PLO to officially merge its forces in Lebanon into a special brigade of the Lebanese Army—one that would operate under PLO command—it was learned yesterday in Jerusalem from a reliable Soviet source.

In this way the fighters of the Palestinian organizations in southern Lebanon, estimated at some 5,000 in the Sidon area alone, would come under the full auspices of the Lebanese Government—and therefore also under the auspices of the Syrian Government, according to the "brotherhood treaty" signed recently between the two countries. An Israeli attack on bases belonging to the various Palestinian organizations would then be considered an attack on the Lebanese Army and, according to the Damascus-Beirut accord, would permit a Syrian military response against Israel from Lebanese territory.

The idea was discussed last week in Damascus between the Syrian leadership and a PLO delegation under Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO's political department—the first high-level contact between Syria and the PLO for a long time. [passage omitted]

Source Says Syria Replies Positively to Bush

TA0606052791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
6 Jun 91 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] The convening of a peace conference now depends only on Israel's response to the compromise proposal made in U.S. President George Bush's letter, because Syria has given a positive reply to the offer. This

was said yesterday by a senior political source in Jerusalem very much involved in the peace process.

He said that President al-Asad gave in to pressures exerted on him last week by Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and the EC troika ministers via messages transmitted to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. It seems that contrary to reports disseminated in recent days about Damascus' hard-line position, al-Asad accepted the U.S. compromise on the participation of a UN observer who would not have the authority to intervene. Al-Asad yielded on his previous demand that the United Nations be one of the sponsors of the conference. He also accepted the proposal that the conference not be defined as "ongoing" and expressed readiness to make do with it being convened from time to time, with the agreement of the parties involved, in order to receive an update on progress in the bilateral talks. Syria also does not oppose the forum being called "a conference to start direct negotiations."

The compromise proposal presented by Bush in his letter was reached jointly with the USSR, which conducted discreet negotiations with al-Asad and persuaded him to modify his positions on two procedural issues unacceptable to Israel. A senior political source said yesterday that in the situation thus created, a negative response by Shamir to Bush would lead to most of the blame being put on Israel. This situation is causing a great deal of nervousness in the Prime Minister's Bureau, which has decided to hold up sending the response and is trying to work out a formula that would not present Israel as responding negatively to the U.S. compromise proposal.

Foreign Minister David Levi, who returns from Paris today, will become involved in the discussions on the reply to Bush. Levi continues to claim that Shamir accepted the proposal to give biannual reports to the conference. The Foreign Ministry believes that Israel should agree to have the UN secretary general be represented by one of his aides, such as Jean-Claude Aime, and not by Edouard Brunner, who was appointed to continue the Jarring mission. [passage omitted]

Israel Knows Nothing of Reply

TA0606091691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0900 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Has there been any change in Syria's position regarding the political process?

Minister Without Portfolio David Magen said that he would be pleasantly surprised if Syrian President al-Asad had indeed given President Bush an affirmative response. The Israeli Government, at any rate, has received no such reports. Israel will in any case be opposed to the participation of a UN observer at the peace conference, as long as the shameful resolution equating Zionism with racism is not revoked. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Return of Levi Letter Not 'Rebuff'

TA0506111191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1005 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Report by Arye Golan]

[Text] While Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is currently working on the drafting of a long letter, his response to President Bush, we will deal with another message, a regular letter Foreign Minister David Levi sent to 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, congratulating him on his appointment as Arab League secretary general.

Somebody in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem decided to send the letter to the Arab League offices in Cairo, which was a mistake. 'Abd-al-Majid, as League secretary general, no longer represents only Egypt and cannot accept a congratulatory message from Israel. The letter should have been sent to his home or to the Foreign Ministry in Cairo. Therefore, the letter was returned to the sender unopened.

It is clear to top Foreign Ministry officials that it was not meant as a deliberate rebuff by the Egyptian Government. Then why was Ambassador Basyuni summoned early this week to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem? The answer is that Basyuni was summoned to be handed a protest about a sharp anti-Israeli attack published recently in AL-AHRAM, the latest in a series of attacks on Israel and Prime Minister Shamir in the Egyptian media.

Egyptian Explanation Questioned

TA0606100091 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 6 Jun 91 p 5

[Report by political correspondents Shim'on Schiffer and Smadar Peri]

[Text] Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador in Cairo, spoke to YEDI'OT AHARONOT last night about the incident of the letter sent by Foreign Minister David Levi to Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid on his appointment as Arab League secretary general. It will be recalled that the letter was returned to the sender in Jerusalem unopened, which caused a great deal of anger in Israel.

Ambassador Basyuni said: "One must understand that with his appointment as Arab League secretary general, Dr. Basyuni is no longer defined in our official protocol as 'an official Egyptian functionary.' Under the peace accord Israel has wide-ranging contacts with Egyptian Government officials, but the Arab League is not in that category."

A different senior Egyptian official said yesterday about the letter incident: "If Israel insists on maintaining relations with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, whose new post will force him to distance himself from Israel, it should have sent the letter to his private address or to his previous office, which would have made sure to dispatch the letter

to him discreetly. An official letter from Israel is not a reason for special joy in the Arab League's offices; it is a cause of embarrassment.

However, Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Efrayim Doweik said in a report sent to Israel yesterday that the letter affair is very grave. He said the Egyptian explanation that the letter was returned because it was sent to the Arab League offices was untrue. Ambassador Doweik claims that Foreign Minister Levi's letter was sent to 'Abd-al-Majid's private address and not to the Arab League offices, and therefore, because of Egypt's behavior, the matter should be pursued further.

Sources See Husayn Statement as 'Propaganda'

TA0406084791 Tel Aviv HATZOFI in Hebrew
4 Jun 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem political sources said yesterday that King Husayn's retreat from his statement about the need to conduct direct talks with Israel stems from growing strength of the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood movement, whose military branch, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], controls 50 percent of Jordan's population today and dictates the Jordanian Government's policies to a certain extent.

According to them, the leaders of this movement criticize statements by the king that clash with its political platform which claims that war must be waged against Israel fought until all of Palestine, from the river to the great sea, is liberated.

The political circles believe that the king's declaration was made for propaganda purposes only and that it was unrealistic. Husayn, who was hurt by his support for Saddam Husayn during the Gulf war, would like to return reinforced to the international political arena. He believes that the path of declarations in support of lifting the boycott on Israel will ease his way back to the political arena without obliging him to take any practical steps.

The circles added that if Husayn receives President Bush's invitation to a conference, he will be the first to accept, even if Syria declines. [passage omitted]

Sanctions Against South Africa To Be Rescinded

TA0606101591 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 6 Jun 91 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Text] Israel will soon be lifting key elements of its sanctions policy against South Africa. Israeli officials told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

Meanwhile, new South African Ambassador to Israel Johan Lotter, who presented his credentials yesterday,

said South African President Frederick de Klerk would visit Israel within six months.

Within a month, one well-informed official said, the cabinet would vote to "drop restrictions on investment in South Africa and would allow the purchase of Krugers. We will also eliminate quotas on iron and steel imports. We are considering, but haven't decided, an end to limits on science, culture and sports contacts," he said.

However, officials stressed that Israel would not drop its opposition to new defense contracts with Pretoria. According to the sanctions imposed by the cabinet on March 1987, Israel pledged not to engage in new military contracts, but refrained from cancelling existing ones. The government has never publicized the extent of its military ties with South Africa.

Officials said Israel is taking the step to drop sanctions now, because Western countries are also dropping sanctions on Pretoria due to de Klerk's reformist policies. Specifically, the European Community (EC) lifted sanctions on investment in December and almost all the EC countries have agreed in principle to drop import quotas this spring.

More important for Israel, officials said the U.S. is expected to drop its sanctions at the end of this month or early in July. They said Jerusalem would wait to see whether the U.S. would lift its sanctions on science, cultural and sports contacts before deciding how far to go.

Six months ago, Israel seemed poised to drop sanctions, but was dissuaded from doing so by American-Jewish groups which felt such a decision would undermine support for Israel among members of the Black Caucus in the U.S. Congress. With the U.S. now apparently lifting restrictions itself, the pressure has been taken off Israel.

An issue that remains undecided is the timing of the Israeli move. Pretoria would like the Israeli cabinet decision to lift economic sanctions a few days before the U.S. decision is announced as a symbolic gesture of friendship.

Israeli officials deny rumors that Pretoria has threatened Israel with the opening of a PLO office in the absence of an Israeli decision to lift sanctions.

The first clue that an Israeli decision is in the offing came this week when Industry and Trade Minister Moshe Nisim called in a speech for dropping sanctions on investment.

Defense Ministry Director on Iranian Threat

TA0506154791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Report by military affairs correspondent 'Amir Fink on news conference by Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri on 5 June]

[Text] Syria buys weapons constantly, and Israel regards even conventional weapons in Syrian hands, if bought in large quantities, as a mortal threat. That observation was made by Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri. He believes Iran will be the next serious threat to the Middle East.

[Begin 'Ivri recording] Iranian weapons procurement threatens to kindle conflicts throughout the Middle East, and since Iran thinks of Israel as an enemy, Israel should take the threat seriously. The Gulf war taught us that the absence of a joint border is no guarantee that war will not break out. Nowadays, in the era of ground-to-ground missiles, it is possible to pose an active threat to distant countries. I would say this is the danger we should examine seriously. [end recording]

Reserves General 'Ivri says that contrary to the prevailing assessments in the wake of the Gulf war, he believes that procurement will not necessarily focus on sophisticated weapons, but rather on air defense systems.

[Begin 'Ivri recording] Anyone analyzing the Gulf war and the air supremacy achieved there will realize that the next step should be the upgrading of air defenses. At present, most people insist on having more and more sophisticated weapons. In my opinion, there will soon be great demand for defensive weapons. [end recording]

Director General 'Ivri says that the Arrow missile has an edge of several years on other defense systems currently being developed for use against ground-to-ground missiles. Its military advantage lies in the protection it affords the deploying forces.

Officials To Study Nuclear Plants in Hungary

TA0206181291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1730 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] The chief scientist of the Energy Ministry and the head of the Israel Electric Company have left for Hungary to examine closely the efficiency of electricity-producing power plants. Our economic correspondent Gil Tamari reports that, among other things, the two will examine Soviet-made nuclear plants and will ask for the Hungarians' opinion of them. They are doing that because Israel might possibly use imported components to build an Israeli-made nuclear power plant.

Soldier Injured by Gunfire in Security Zone

TA0606072091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0700 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Light weapons fire was directed at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost in the eastern sector of the southern Lebanese security zone. An IDF soldier was slightly injured and taken by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

Our correspondents Hayim Hecht and Karmela Menashe report that gunfire was returned at the

attackers, and several figures were spotted fleeing. UN observers reported that the IDF fired at terrorist targets following the attack.

Projections on Soviet Immigration 'Overblown'

TA0606101891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 6 Jun 91 p 1

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] Israel has been using drastically overblown figures for the basis of its estimates on how many Soviet Jews were planning to make aliya, informed sources said yesterday.

Just last month, an internal report compiled by senior officials in the Prime Minister's Office showed that some 170,000 Soviet Jews had permits from the Soviet authorities to emigrate, the sources said.

Recently, however, the officials have revised their estimates, saying that only around 90,000 Soviet Jews hold exit visas. No explanation has been given for the mistake, which is presently under investigation.

The higher figure was frequently quoted by Jewish Agency officials to show the great potential for aliya that exists. Those Jews with exit visas from the Soviet authorities were expected to be certain candidates for aliya.

Meanwhile, Uri Gordon, head of the Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, warned yesterday that Soviet Jews continue to put off their aliya because of reports they receive of employment and housing problems here.

Gordon said figures compiled at the Agency's Eastern Europe transit stations showed that the flow of Soviet immigrants had not picked up this month.

Only a little more than 1,500 Soviet Jews have arrived here since the start of June.

Gordon predicted that no more than 30,000 Soviet Jews would arrive by the end of the month. Other Agency officials, however, disagree. Earlier in the week, Agency head Simha Dinitz said that 50,000 Soviet immigrants would arrive in June.

But the downturn in Soviet immigration was also being felt at the Israeli consulate in Moscow, according to Gordon, speaking before olim [immigrant] groups in Tel Aviv. Only 12,000 aliya requests last month were received at the consulate, Gordon said, compared with close to 20,000 in each of the preceding two months.

As long as the government continues to fail to create jobs and ease the housing crisis, Soviet immigration will not pick up to the levels it reached late last year, Gordon said.

32,000 New Immigrants Arrive in May

TA0206113091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1000 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] About 32,000 new immigrants arrived in the country last month. Of these, more than 16,000 came from the Soviet Union, and over 14,000 came from Ethiopia.

Opinion Poll Conducted on Government Performance

TA3105140491 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
31 May 91 p 1

["Exclusive" Smith Institute poll]

[Text] The public does not support the government on any of the central issues on the national agenda, despite the fact that the coalition parties enjoy wider support than the opposition. That is one of the findings of the public opinion survey conducted for DAVAR between 5 and 13 May, which interviewed about 1,200 individuals constituting a representative sample of the adult Jewish population (including residents of moshavim, kibbutzim, and Judaea and Samaria).

The men and women were polled on four issues. The question was: "Do you support the way the government addresses the following issues?" All the following results are in percentages:

	Supportive or Very Supportive	Not Very Supportive	Not Supportive	No Opinion
The peace process promotion	40	23	30	7
The absorption of Soviet immigrants	35	25	36	4
Dealing with the intifadah	29	26	39	6
Dealing with job creation and unemployment	15	25	53	7

The table shows plainly that on none of the issues does a majority of the public support the government's policy. With regard to the peace process, although a great majority of the supporters of the Likud, the right-wing parties, and the religious parties approve of the government's policy, about one-third of them do not support the government on this issue. The rate of interviewees identifying with the Labor Party and the left wing who approve of the government policy is minimal.

The absorption of immigrants from the Soviet Union: Most of the Sephardi religious (not ultraorthodox) and veteran (first generation) Israelis support the government. However, Labor Party and left-wing supporters of

European descent, as well as the secular population, are not particularly satisfied with the government's performance.

Dealing with the intifadah: The government policy on this issue failed to muster the support of a majority even among the supporters of the Likud and of other coalition parties. Some interviewees said they were in favor of a sterner attitude on the issue, while others wanted a more moderate solution.

Job creation and unemployment: The displeasure with the government performance on this subject encompasses all segments of the population.

The question remains: If there is displeasure with the way the government addresses these very central issues, why do the coalition parties enjoy such wide support? There are several possible answers: 1) The voters are loyal to a specific party, not to the entire cabinet. 2) On several issues, certain population groups pull in more radical directions and are displeased with the status quo. 3) On certain issues, such as the mass immigration, the situation is nationwide and does not depend on the government alone. 4) On certain issues, the coalition supporters seem to doubt that the opposition can come up with better solutions.

Poll: U.S. Pressure Needed for Peace Process

TA0206194691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
2 Jun 91 p 1

["Exclusive" Smith Institute Poll]

[Text] A majority of the inhabitants of Israel do not believe that there is hope to promote the political process without American pressure. That fact is one of the findings of a special survey commissioned by DAVAR and conducted during May.

The 1,200 people polled constitute a representative sample of the adult Israeli population. They were presented with the following question:

"Do you believe that there is a chance of reaching peace negotiations with the Arabs without American pressure?"

The answers were:

Good chance—15 percent

Some chance—21 percent

Little chance—24 percent

No chance at all—35 percent

Different answer or no opinion—5 percent

It is therefore obvious to the Israeli public that there is no chance to attain negotiations with the Arabs without American pressure. Only 15 percent stated that there is a good chance for negotiations with the Arab countries without American pressure. On the other hand, 59 percent think that the chances of attaining negotiations are slight or nonexistent without American pressure.

It is interesting to note that the evaluations of the supporters of both the Likud and the Alignment were similar. No significant differences were found in a breakdown of the data according to country of origin.

U.S. Economic Aid Said Conditional on Behavior

TA3105173191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
31 May 91 p B1

[Commentary by Avraham Schweitzer: "Policy in a Vulnerable Country"]

[Text] In retrospect, it seems that Yitzhaq Shamir had nothing to worry about: President Bush's proposal, or should we say plan, concerning regional supervision of arms might be accepted by Jerusalem. The President did not have to hold formal consultations with Israel to achieve this similarity of opinion. This indicates that on more than one occasion Washington was able to guess what is—or even more so, what should be—on the mind of its remote protegee in the Middle East.

After all, Israel's possession of a nonconventional potential has been, is, and will be the detail balancing the equilibrium of power in the region. The Arab side has always had the quantitative edge; the qualitative advantage, mainly the nonhuman part of it, is quickly being reduced. What is left is the unique advantage in Israel's deterrence ability which does not require the import of any of its main components. As for the supervision of it, this also becomes possible—naturally, if it suits Israel's legitimate conditions as a sovereign state.

To a certain extent, President Bush's speech on Wednesday, before the Air Force Academy in Colorado, was the jewel in the crown of what should be called Israel week in the United States. At the beginning of the week we were informed that the Americans played an active and very positive role in the success of Operation Solomon. Along came the proposal included in Bush's address which deals with the practical aspects that outweigh a lot of the verbiage—which is often nasty—coming from the U.S. capital.

The remarks Defense Secretary Cheney made here upon landing at Ben-Gurion Airport about the strength of U.S.-Israeli ties—apparently meaning the strategic ties—show that we were lucky this week. It should be added that this, to a large extent, happened thanks to Israel's own efforts.

Some among us believe that in practice we do not need the United States to act as the superpower guarding us; others maintain that although we need it, our ties with it can and should be based on those occasional acts of rebellion that remind the United States of our value as a friend. The truth of those theses were not confirmed during Israel week: The successful cooperation was the result of understandings—some formal, some not—that in the fabric of both countries' true interests—to distinguish from nonsense such as the strict observation of the commandment to defend the wholeness of the country—

there is enough similarity to justify guarding the link created and tightened in the past 40 years or more.

There is, however, a catch. In fact, to avoid too colorful a description, we were given a clear hint that there is a limit to aid. Former Senator Rudy Boschwitz, who was an active partner on behalf of President Bush in eliminating the Ethiopian exile, made it clear to us that from this point on, this is our problem: We must not count on U.S. aid to finance the absorption of the immigrants of Operation Solomon. This is a detail that attests to the rule: The United States refuses to expand the coordination of economic aid, or alternatively, it makes the expansion conditional on an Israeli behavior which suits the United States' own needs. The balance between the give and the take has always been a non-explicit element in the relations between the two countries. The Israeli Government policy, however, has caused this secret element to surface. This mainly is true in view of the habit our rulers have adopted to make obscene gestures at the United States in general, and the President's envoys in particular. See for example the remark made by Secretary of State James Baker in his address before the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on foreign operations, concerning the settlements as an upsetting welcome ceremony.

Israel has serious security concerns which justify many of its demands on the issue. At the same time, it does not have the right to demand absolute security, defense zones tailored to measure, assistance in terms of conventional potential, and an acceptance of its owning nonconventional potential as the bottom-line deterrent. Henry Kissinger wrote in his interesting book *A World Restored* roughly the following: Absolute security for one country means absolute insecurity for its surroundings. The duty to choose from the various elements that provide security is elementary, and is the task of the rulers, not the masses.

The question is what should we choose if we cannot get all that the government wants as solutions to the security problems? This week of achievements also indicates the existence of several weak security spots such as money and all types of weapons. Could the government go on fooling the people claiming that our control over Judea, Samaria, and Gaza would compensate us for the absence or reduction of the other elements, the necessity of which was made very visible last week?

Commentary Examines Shamir's Position on UN

TA0506165791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
5 Jun 91 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "A Window or a Dream"]

[Text] Last week, Bush's letters were squeezed with great difficulty through the narrow crack of the window of opportunity left open in our region after the Gulf war. Each day following the celebration of victory over Saddam Husayn has strengthened the evil spirit that for

many years has been slamming shut every window that slightly opened for an arrangement between Israel and the Arabs. Sending the letters—a step preceding despair—Washington policymakers have been asking themselves: Was this a window, or just a dream, of opportunities? In Jerusalem, which is well fenced behind the wall of procedure, there are already sounds of rejoicing over the misfortune of the naive Americans who were tempted to believe that the Arabs have changed.

Speaking before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee a day after he received Bush's letter, the prime minister preached to impatient elements who are seeking shortcuts. President Bush, however, has set a timetable for James Baker's diplomatic effort, and that timetable ends in less than two weeks. Baker's aides told Israeli diplomats that their boss would even refuse an order, if the President tries to force on him another shuttle mission to our region. It seems, therefore, that the time for Shamir's games is up. He has been asked to respond to the letter with an unequivocal "yes" or "no." The answer will determine the fate of the peace process.

If, as his aides have promised, Shamir adheres to his positions on the two main procedural issues—UN participation and the reconvening of the conference—Israel will have nothing to do but try to pin the blame on the Arabs. The onslaught against Egypt's President Mubarak was merely the kickoff. The many briefings about Syria's arms acquisitions were only meant as preparations for blaming al-Asad. Indeed, this is not mere propaganda: As time passes and the Americans fail even to block the settlement drive, the Arabs return to the old rhetoric and the military option. The creeping annexation is being interpreted by the Arabs (and the whole world) as an Israeli effort not to leave territories free for bargaining for a political arrangement.

If the political game ends without results, the U.S. referee will have nothing to do but determine which of the chief players is more to blame for the "fiasco." The referee has no intention of taking the responsibility of summoning the teams to a futile game. In Washington they are already dealing with the "postmortem" of the window of opportunity. The results of this analysis will determine, to a large extent, Israel's score. The American experts are rejecting the claim that the window of opportunity was only an illusion of people flushed with victory. They are pointing at four important openings, all of which are on the Arab side: The PLO's fall from grace has enabled the residents of the territories to begin direct negotiations with the United States while bypassing the obstacle of Israel's opposition to negotiations with the PLO itself. King Husayn, who stood by the side of Saddam, will do anything to appease the Americans and gain economic benefits, directly or through a U.S. appeal to the Gulf states. He has gone back on his opposition to a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, perhaps after he discovered that you can survive even after clearly deviating from the Arab consensus. Out of gratitude to the United States (and a desire to get weapons),

the Gulf states have, for the first time, agreed to attend an international forum to solve regional problems, and to send an observer to the opening of the peace conference. And the last opening—in the Gulf crisis Syria understood the strategic meaning of losing the Soviet patron.

This analysis indicates that Washington believes that the window has not yet been shut by the Arab side. The one that has not changed is Israel: Minister Dan Meridor has claimed that the government made concessions on marginal issues only and did not budge from its position on substantial issues. Settlements are the most tangible and, as Baker said, most disturbing expression of this saying, which is rooted in favoring territory over peace and security.

In the meantime, until Shamir's letter reaches the White House, the superpowers are holding off the UN Security Council resolution condemning the settlements. Should the reply be along the lines of what Yosi Ben-Aharon told Dennis Ross last week, however, the U.S. will use the settlement issue to involve the UN in trying to keep open the window of opportunity.

Raids on Lebanon Viewed as Message to Syria

TA0606093191 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
6 Jun 91 p 2

[Commentary by Alex Fishman: "Israel Is Clarifying the Rules of the Game in Lebanon to Syria"]

[Text] An aerial bombardment is one of the acceptable languages in Lebanon. According to the rules of Lebanese grammar, a massive aerial attack constitutes a clear signal. Israel wants to make the dos and don'ts in Lebanon clear to Syria in order to prevent future misunderstandings. Three air raids within two days, with additional artillery shelling—that is the Israeli side of the dialogue, so far.

The Syrians got the message. The Syrians have three possible ways to respond. One way is to use Lebanese President al-Hirawi and make a lot of noise in the United Nations and in Arab capitals to exert diplomatic pressure on Israel. The second alternative is to ask al-Hirawi to invite the Syrians to southern Lebanon on the basis of the recently signed brotherhood treaty. That step would only exacerbate the situation, because Israel has no intention of abandoning its policy of fighting terrorism, even if there is a Syrian presence in the south. Such a step could lead to direct military friction between Syria and Israel in Lebanon. The third option, which so far appears to remain hypothetical, is a Syrian decision to implement the clause in the treaty with Lebanon calling for the disarmament of the PLO militias concentrated in southern Lebanon. The decision on the disarmament of the militias was put off by Syria until September 1991.

Our violent dialogue with the Syrians in southern Lebanon could continue, until the big boss—the United

States—finds itself forced to intervene. Everything depends on the price of the violence. In the two days in which Israel attacked, dozens were killed, but that is a price that apparently still does not demand intervention.

Paper Says Syria Seeks To Dominate Palestinians

TA0306165191 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
3 Jun 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Palestine First"]

[Text] We, the Palestinians, have always been and still are ardent supporters of Arab nationalism. We strongly believe in Arab unity and in one Arab nation from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf. In spite of the many setbacks and disappointments and the hardships we have faced and are still facing at the hands of Arab governments and Arab peoples, we have not lost this dream and we are not going to give it up.

This having been said, we should turn our attention to two related items at the center of Palestinian news reports this week. The first is the renewal of official Palestinian-Syrian relations and the second is the disturbing situation of Palestinians in Kuwait. The first comes to fuel our dream and the second to shatter it.

The contrast between the two is as large as their aims are different. In either case, the experience will most likely turn out bitter. Palestinian-Syrian rapprochement is not necessarily the opening of a new page in inter-Arab relations. There have been many similar experiences and somehow the result has always turned out to be totally opposite of popular expectations. Syria, as is known from past experience, wants to dominate policy-making in the entire Middle East. It started in Lebanon, moved to Jordan and tried very hard more than once, even by using its military to kill Palestinian and Lebanese civilians, to hegemonize Palestinian decision-making. Why then should we expect the same Syrian regime which

carried out all these past atrocities against our people in Syria and in Lebanon to be any different now?

Syria played the Gulf War card very skillfully. It backed the winner and in return got the green light to dominate Lebanon. It did not get a similar go-ahead with respect to dominating either the Palestinians or Jordanians because the latter two are important instruments in the Middle East conflict and the United States would like to see them remain under Israeli hegemony, not Syria's. Both Jordan and the PLO, having come out weakened by the Gulf War, sought in Syria the backing they needed to remain in the political game of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Syria was happy with this new turn of events because it meant giving it more power and control over these two important players, leading eventually, it surmised, to have control over the outcome of the political process in the region. This is something Syria has been fighting very hard for for many years.

In Kuwait, Palestinians are receiving treatment even worse than they have had at the hand of their enemies, the Israelis. The Palestinians in Kuwait are being unfairly treated and falsely accused of crimes of which they are totally innocent. It is not fair to condemn the entire Palestinian community in Kuwait simply because a very few, almost negligible number in comparison to the number of those living in Kuwait, helped the Iraqis during their seven-month occupation of Kuwait. The Kuwaitis quickly forgot what the Palestinians contributed to the development of their beduin society and how the Palestinians turned their country into a modern state.

In light of these two developments and regardless of their eventual result, the Palestinian decision-makers should be thinking of what is best for the Palestinians, first as a separate entity and second as part of the Arab nation. Of course, we should keep in mind that we are part of the Arab nation and continue working towards that, but not before we gain our independence and become a sovereign state.

King Replies to Letter From President Bush*JN0506133291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1210 GMT 5 Jun 91*

[Text] A responsible Jordanian source announced in Amman today that King Husayn has reaffirmed Jordan's desire to cooperate with Washington for the attainment of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This came in King Husayn's reply to the letter U.S. President George Bush had sent him.

Source Says Bush Letter Contains No New Ideas*JN0606060791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
6 Jun 91 p 1*

[Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—A responsible source has stated that the letter that His Majesty King Husayn recently received from U.S. President George Bush did not include any new ideas or proposals.

In clarifications to AL-RA'Y, the source added that the U.S. letter stresses four basis points—namely, the importance of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the need to utilize the peace opportunity available now, the importance of the Jordanian role in a peaceful solution, and continued Jordanian flexibility in dealing with the peace efforts.

The source pointed out that Bush's letters to the leaders of the five states in the region were all different.

The White House on Monday said President Bush sent letters over the weekend to the leaders of Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. The letters urged them not to waste the available opportunities to achieve a solution to all Middle East problems.

Saudis Grant Palestinian Pilgrims New Access*JN0606092791 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU'
in Arabic 6 Jun 91 p 12*

[Report by Taha al-Rashid]

[Excerpts] Riyadh—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and National Guard commander, have responded positively to mediation by 'Akif al-Fayiz, former speaker of the House of Representatives and Senate member, to allow Arabs from 1948-occupied Palestine to enter Saudi Arabia to perform the pilgrimage through the Jordanian border and not Egypt's, as has been the case in the past. [passage omitted]

I have learned that 'Akif al-Fayiz will soon visit the Kingdom to meet the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd, and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah, deputy prime minister, in an attempt to bring the ties of brotherhood, solidarity, and cooperation between Jordan and Saudi Arabia back to normal and to explain Jordan's position on the Gulf crisis which some brothers have interpreted incorrectly. The true picture of the

position is now becoming clearer to the officials. Jordan, under His Majesty King Husayn, has tried hard to stop what happened from happening, which could have been averted if the king's opinions and advice had been heeded. Jordan was against the occupation of Kuwait and the days will confirm this in the near future.

We can say that the clouds that accumulated between Amman and Riyadh after the Gulf crisis are on their way to disappearing, and very soon.

Arab Fund Approves Loan for Development Projects*JN0406123691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
4 Jun 91 p 3*

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The Manama based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) has granted Jordan a five million Kuwaiti dinar loan to be channelled to the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) in Amman in order to help finance development projects in the Kingdom.

The terms of the loan agreement was signed by the IDB Director-General Tahir Kan'an and the AFESD Director-General and board

The agreement was also signed by Jordan's charge d'affaires to Bahrain Hasan Jawarimah because the loan will be under guarantee from Jordan's government.

The loan, which carries a 4.5 per cent interest, is to be paid over 17 years with a five year grace period, according to the agreement.

An IDB spokesman said that the loan would be used between 1991 and 1994 to contribute to the development of industrial and tourist sectors and technical services in Jordan.

The IDB will channel the loan into a number of investment projects in the country, the agreement said.

With the new loan to Jordan the AFESD will have granted Jordan 100 million Kuwaiti dinars that benefitted the agricultural, irrigation, industrial, electricity, water and transport and telecommunications sectors.

Import of Crude Oil From Syria Halted*JN0206083091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
2 Jun 91 p 2*

[Text] Amman—It has been decided to halt the import of crude oil from sisterly Syria now that all the agreed shipments have been received.

An official source at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has said that Jordan will not import more crude oil from Syria, while noting the possibility of renewing the agreement between the two sides should it become necessary.

The last shipment of Syrian crude arrived at al-'Aqabah Port last week.

President Phones Syria's Khaddam in Paris

NC0606053891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday held a 30-minute telephone conversation with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Kahddam, who is currently in Paris. The two discussed the Lebanese situation and the Israeli attacks on the south.

It should be noted that Khaddam has been in the French capital for the past five days undergoing medical tests. Khaddam is currently at the Syrian ambassador's residence for a short recuperation period.

Al-Hirawi, Karami Meet Syrian Chief of Staff

NC0606061791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] The intricate problems related to the Chamber of Deputies appointments yesterday prompted President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni to go to Shtawrah to meet with Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi. The meeting was held in the home of Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, who also attended the meeting.

It should be recalled that this issue is expected to be settled at an extraordinary cabinet meeting tomorrow.

Government Contacts Hizballah on Hostages

NC0306144391 Paris AFP in English 1343 GMT
3 Jun 91

[Text] Beirut, June 3 (AFP)—Lebanese officials are in contact with the fundamentalist Islamic movement Hizballah to obtain the release of 12 Western hostages held in the country, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said Monday.

It was the first time a Lebanese official had directly implicated the Iranian-backed group in the hostage issue.

Hizballah has repeatedly denied any link with the captives, whose abduction has either been claimed by other groups believed to be close to Iran or never claimed at all.

"The Lebanese government is doing its best because it considers itself morally responsible (for the hostages)," Mr. Buwayz told a press conference.

"We are having contacts with all the parties who can help find a solution and Lebanese officials are making contacts with Hizballah," he said.

The press conference was also attended by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' who arrived earlier in the day to exchange with his Lebanese counterpart the text of a "fraternity and cooperation" treaty ratified by the presidents of the two countries last week.

Mr. al-Shar' expressed his optimism on the hostage issue.

"The normalisation of the situation in Lebanon, namely the implementation of (U.N. Security Council) Resolution 425 (calling for an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon) and the liberation of Lebanese prisoners held by Israel will have positive repercussions on the hostage issue," he said.

Israel and Hizballah last month announced their readiness to negotiate the release of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel in exchange for Israeli soldiers missing or detained in Lebanon.

Hizballah said it was holding two of seven Israelis who have been missing or captured since 1982.

But on Monday a senior Israeli official said negotiations between his country and Hizballah were not underway.

"There has been nothing so far but words in the air by Hizballah spokesmen," Voice of Israel radio quoted Uri Lubrani, an expert on Lebanese affairs at the Defense Ministry, as saying.

Developments on Hostages Expected in 15 Days

NC0506192991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Our correspondent has reported that positive developments concerning the foreign hostages will be seen within 15 days in light of British-Syrian contacts in which the Lebanese Government is participating.

Ministers Dallul, Al-Murr Criticize French Position

NC3005065691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0315 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has told a French cabinet session that France will demand that Syrian forces withdraw from Lebanon and that free elections be held according to the treaty signed between Lebanon and Syria.

Minister Muhsin Dallul denounced the French position, saying that the French should concentrate on their own affairs and not interfere in Lebanon's, because the Lebanese are best informed about their situation. Minister Michel al-Murr said the French position is regrettable.

Dallul Urges U.S. To Put Pressure on Israel

NC0306203291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1900 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Minister Muhsin Dallul has stated that the Lebanese-Syrian treaty will benefit both countries. He said that the Lebanese-Syrian relationship that was formerly based on anarchy is now based on firm and clear foundations that guarantee the interests of the two countries.

Minister Dallul called on Washington to honor its obligations by exerting pressure on Israel to implement Resolution 425. He also called for unity and solidarity to repel any Israeli attack.

Israeli Tanks, Artillery Units Advance in South

NC0506160191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Excerpt] The Israeli military continues to move toward the eastern sector of the border strip. Israeli tanks and artillery batteries have advanced toward Kawkabah, Jazzin, the Rum-Jazzin axis, and Tallat Khazin.

Widescale search operations involving machine guns and rockets were conducted along the Tallat Khazin line and the surrounding forests. [passage omitted]

Villages Shelled; Israeli Overflights Continue

NC0606064291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] According to reports from southern Lebanon, three villages adjacent to the occupied zone were shelled last night. Zionist planes continued to fly over Palestinian camps.

Approximately 20 150-mm shells were fired on the villages of Yatir, Zibqin, and Haddathah from the positions of the agent militia in Jabal Humayyid. There were no casualties.

Army Ordered To Confront Any Israeli Operations

NC0506112491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1045 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Well-informed security sources have noted that all the Lebanese and Palestinian forces in the south have been placed on a maximum state of alert in preparation for any military possibility. The same sources say that an Israeli military operation is expected in east Sidon before 15 June. They said that the coming days will be difficult.

In a related development, military sources have disclosed that all Lebanese Army units have been ordered to confront any Israeli operation in their area of deployment. Reports indicate that some Lebanese Army units have been equipped with SAM-7 antiaircraft missiles. The Army has also adopted stricter security measures on the checkpoints near the border strip.

The military situation can be summed up this way: Israeli military planes continue to overfly Sidon and nearby camps and a state of maximum alert prevails in the positions of the Palestinian and other military organizations in the area between Sidon and Tyre.

According to security reports, military gunboats have been sighted off the shores of al-Zahrani. Reinforcements have also been reported in the Israeli military positions in the border strip.

Lahd on Palestinian Weapons, Treaty With Syria

NC2405192891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1545 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] In an interview with AL-MASIRAH magazine, Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, ruled out the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 in south Lebanon. He said that the Lebanese Army deployed in the south is ineffective and can have no say. He added that a small portion of the Palestinians' weapons was transported to al-Biqa' and more were sent to the south, but the Palestinians still keep the largest part of their weapons in Beirut, contrary to what is being reported, especially by the Islamic organizations.

Lahd said: Jazzin is a red line, and I will not allow it to become like the rest of Lebanon. I am not prepared to hand over the Jazzin area so that it may be exposed to danger, like East Beirut is now that the Lebanese Forces have left.

Lahd said that the Lebanese-Syrian treaty is a treaty of submission imposed on Lebanon while it is paralyzed and unable to reject it. The treaty shackles Lebanon's freedom, undermines its sovereignty, and abolishes its independence. He asked: Is this the goal of the champions of the al-Ta'if agreement? If they insist on carrying out the plans for Lebanon and hand it over to Syria, they should remember that the days of domination are numbered and that the Lebanese people, who are renowned for their rejection of humiliation and degradation, will seize the first opportunity to free themselves from the restrictions imposed on them by this treaty.

Lahd called on the deputies not to sign the treaty, or at least to boycott the chamber meeting on ratifying the treaty.

Soviet Ambassador Denounces 'Israeli Aggressions'

NC0506120491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1030 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Following his meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today, Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev made a statement in which he strongly denounced the Israeli aggressions. He said that these aggressions, which are absolutely unjustified, are designed to undermine the positive changes in Lebanon and obstruct efforts to create a suitable atmosphere for convening a Middle East peace conference.

The Soviet ambassador said: We support any measure or step proposed by the Lebanese Government regarding the development of matters in southern Lebanon. He noted that there are plans to convene a UN Security Council meeting.

President Al-Asad Returns From Egypt 5 June

*JN0506174191 Damascus Syrian Arab Television
Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Jun 91*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus this evening following a working visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. Returning with the president was the official accompanying delegation comprising Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur.

Italy's Prime Minister Andreotti Visits Damascus

Arrives, Meets With Al-Asad

*AU0506111091 Rome ANSA in English 1010 GMT
5 Jun 91*

[Text] Damascus, 5 June (ANSA)—Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti winds up a Middle East tour in Damascus today before moving on to Libya.

He arrived in the Syrian capital Tuesday night from Kuwait City on the last leg of a mission which has taken him to a number of nations in the Gulf and the Middle East.

Greeted at the airport by his Syrian counterpart Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Foreign Minister Faruk al-Shar', his talks with head of state Hafiz al-Asad began shortly afterwards.

During his earlier stopoff in Kuwait, Andreotti noted that despite the fact that the Gulf war ended more than three months ago, there remained a great deal of anxiety in the emirate over the fact that Saddam Husayn was still in power in Baghdad. This concern is well understood by countries like Italy which contributed to the military action which forced the aggressor out of Kuwait.

In this context, Andreotti recalled the understanding reached among the coalition forces not to take any individual positions with regard to diplomatic relations with Baghdad and to uphold the embargo against Iraq as long as Saddam remains in power. The Italian premier also urged the Arab world to show greater compactness in contributing to the political isolation of the Baghdad regime.

In his talks with Kuwaiti leaders, Andreotti also insisted on the need to move quickly to find a solution to the Palestinian problem before Palestinians abandon all hope of reaching a settlement through dialogue and peaceful means.

Andreotti's talks here with Syrian leaders wind up the Middle East portion of his mission.

He is due in Libya later today.

Discusses Gulf, Lebanon

*JN0506062191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Jun 91*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 2000 yesterday Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

During the meeting, they held a broad exchange of views and reviewed a number of subjects. Talks dealt with the Gulf developments and their results.

They also reviewed the situation in Lebanon and the positive and important developments it has so far witnessed. They discussed ideas proposed to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on UN resolutions. The two sides affirmed the importance of realizing peace in the region and the need for it to be a just and comprehensive peace. The president affirmed that Syria is dealing with the proposed ideas within the framework of a just and comprehensive peace.

Departs With Delegation

*JN0506084091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0815 GMT 5 Jun 91*

[Excerpt] Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and his delegation left Damascus at 0900 today.

Leading those who saw him off at Damascus International Airport was Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. [passage omitted]

Japanese Delegation Concludes Damascus Visit

Received by al-Asad, Qaddurah

*JN0306141191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Jun 91*

[Text] At 1315 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Riichiro Chikaoka, head of the Arab-Japanese parliamentary friendship society and member of the Japanese parliament, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayid, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly, and the Japanese ambassador in Damascus.

People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah met with the delegation this morning. Attending were Shakir Is'ayid and the Japanese ambassador.

Qaddurah reviewed the most prominent issues in the Arab region, chiefly the Arab-Israeli conflict, while stressing Syria's position and wise and courageous policy on the conflict under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, based on the establishment of just and comprehensive peace in the region through a permanent and effective peace conference to be attended by concerned parties under UN supervision. Moreover, he noted how Japan plays an important role by stressing this point through its policy and economic position.

For his part, Riichiro Chikaoka reviewed his country's policy which is based on respect for UN resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict and Resolutions 242 and 338, and support for a peace conference to resolve the conflict.

Departs 4 June

JN0406192991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Damascus—The delegation of the Japanese-Arab parliamentary friendship society led by Riichiro Chikaoka, head of the society, left Damascus this afternoon following a three-day visit to Syria. During the visit, the delegation met with senior officials in the government and the People's Assembly. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Defends Relations, Treaty With Lebanon

PM2405152991 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 24 May 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Minister al-Shar' Tells SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI: We Do Not Want Unity With Lebanon"]

[Excerpt] Paris, SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI yesterday that the foreign ministers of the states that had signed the "Damascus declaration" held a meeting on the sidelines of the recent Arab League Council meetings in Cairo and agreed to form a preparatory committee to discuss all aspects of the matter.

Al-Shar' said during a stopover at Orly Airport in Paris after his visit to Brussels that the eight ministers agreed to put the principles and aims stipulated in the Damascus declaration into force.

On the Lebanese-Syrian treaty al-Shar' said that his country is not seeking unity with Lebanon. But historically, he said, we belong to one nation and the treaty is a symbol of that historic relationship. Al-Shar' also said that the treaty is consistent in all its points with the

al-Ta'if agreement. He pointed out that Israel is opposing it because it does not want stability and peace in the region.

Al-Shar' said that if a referendum were conducted in the two countries over unity, the majority would support that unity.

The Syrian foreign minister said that current regional and international conditions do not allow a new Israeli aggression against Lebanon. He emphasized that Israel is now forced to respect the Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 425 stipulating its withdrawal from southern Lebanon. He said that the views opposing the treaty are part of the Israeli scheme. He said that the two ministers (Sa'adah and Dib) who did not participate in the ceremony of signing the treaty did not oppose the stipulations of the treaty or talk about Syrian hegemony. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Chides Opponents of Brotherhood Treaty

NC0306195891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] In an interview with Lebanese television, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attacked those who cast doubt on the brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination treaty between Lebanon and Syria, accusing them of not giving Lebanon any serious aid and of plotting to keep it in continuous state of war.

He said: Every step we take toward normalizing the domestic situation and encouraging the peace process is viewed negatively by the skeptics. He added that the French officials have withdrawn their earlier position on the treaty.

Al-Shar' also discussed some of the positive and important points in U.S. President Bush's letter to President al-Asad. He expressed the hope that Resolution 425 will be implemented separately from the more comprehensive Middle East settlement, because this resolution is clear and indisputable. He hoped that the Palestinian position calling for the extension of the state's authority throughout all Lebanese territory will be put into practice.

Afghanistan

Najibollah Interviewed on Elections Proposal

LD3105183691 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Dari 1600 GMT 31 May 91

[Telephone interview with President Najibollah by BBC World Service correspondent Baqer Mo'in on 30 May—recorded]

[Text] [Mo'in] Hello, yes, Dr. Najib?

[Najibollah] I am happy to hear your voice, Mr. Baqer Mo'in.

[Mo'in] Yours truly.

[Najibollah] I am at your service.

[Mo'in] I am also very happy to hear your voice again directly. God willing, you are very well.

[Najibollah] Thank you. I am at your service.

[Mo'in] With your permission I would like to ask you questions and discuss the views of your opponents about the talks carried out and the UN plan. As the first question I would like to ask you about the UN plan to which you have expressed your agreement although the mujahedin views vary regarding this plan. However on one point they all agree, which is the position of you yourself. What is your opinion regarding this matter and what do you think?

[Najibollah] Our position in this regard is completely clear: meaning that the question of this person or that person stepping down or his existence cannot be raised as preconditions during the process of talks or dialogue. This is only and solely within the authority of the people of Afghanistan, to which a reference has also been made in the document by the UN secretary general, saying that the people of Afghanistan, without external interference, can choose the political leadership of the country by holding a free, democratic, secret, and direct election, and thus bring about the government of their choice acceptable to all.

[Mo'in] Your opposition believes that while you are heading the state and your government is in power, that possibility for holding a free election is not available. What is your reply to them?

[Najibollah] As you said earlier, and I also endorse it, the stance of the opposition is not unified. As far as it is clear to us, the intelligentsia in the West, the supporters of Mohammad Zahir Shah—the ex-king of Afghanistan—a number of moderates, most of the internal commanders who are bearing the heavy load of the war, the Afghan refugees abroad, and the overwhelming majority of the people of Afghanistan who are tired of the war, would vote for a political solution of the Afghanistan issue and holding of elections, in particular since this approach has gained formidable political, spiritual, and diplomatic

world support. The purpose of the issuing of the document by the UN secretary general, its approval by the spokesman of the U.S. State Department, the positive stance by the Soviet Union, the sound stance by Iran regarding the holding of elections on a free basis, and the political solution of the Afghanistan issue without foreign interference, and even Pakistan—all of them in a way add to the weight for the political solution of the Afghanistan issue, holding of elections in the society, and a peaceful solution of this problem. We believe in this approach.

[Mo'in] The most moderate of your opponents believes that what is now at issue is your position. Are you prepared to make concessions in this regard?

[Najibollah] I say to you once again—although I have already said it—that it is only and solely within the authority of the people of Afghanistan that they should have the authority to choose the political leadership. It is a question and is interesting to me why some of the opposition groups go to others and ask that such a leadership should change or should be substituted in advance? Why do they not give this authority to the people of Afghanistan?

[Mo'in] How can the people of Afghanistan freely cast their votes?

[Najibollah] Under UN supervision.

[Mo'in] When there is UN supervision...

[Najibollah, interrupting] With a mechanism. We can pave such ground with a mechanism that all the sides involved in the political solution of the issue of Afghanistan should be represented. It can be called an elections coordination commission or a council, which they always talk about, and all the sides should be represented in it under UN supervision, and it should be based on an elections law that should be created by a consensus decision.

[Mo'in] Do you think your government should remain in power as it is now? In other words, should your government continue while these events take place and the United Nations supervises the affairs?

[Najibollah] In protecting the mechanism that I have mentioned, our stance is as such, as we have declared many times: that all the structure and elements from our existing system, as well as those from the opposite side and the areas that are under their and our influence, should remain as they are.

[Mo'in] Are you ready to relinquish power even for an specific period, a limited period, to allow this process to occur?

[Najibollah] I have given you my answer: To relinquish power or to give new power to any individuals, elements, or personalities resides only within the authority of the Afghan people.

[Mo'in] If the Afghan people consider the deliverance of the country to be dependent upon your resignation, what will be your answer?

[Najibollah] We have declared clearly and will emphasize once again that the results of elections taking place under UN supervision will be and should be acceptable, not only by our side but by all of the sides concerned.

[Mo'in] Some people believe that, at the same time while you talk peace, you also continue war. For example, in Herat. Your opponents accuse you of continuing the war. What is your opinion of this?

[Najibollah] We have declared many times that our military doctrine is a defensive doctrine. You have witnessed that at the beginning of this year, which all the people of Afghanistan and the world hoped would see the beginning of talks, negotiations, and inter-Afghan dialogue, attacks were organized against Khowst. In reply, we have organized our combat operations in some other parts of the country again in accordance with our defensive-military doctrine, such as opening roads, sending convoys and supplies of essential goods to the people of the various provinces. It also involves the fortification and expansion of the security zones of the provinces and protection of the cities from missile fire. The right to defend is our legitimate right.

[Mo'in] Dr. Najibollah. Many people say that if you remain in power, war and bloodshed will continue in Afghanistan. Do you see any solution to break the present deadlock? The other side says it will not talk as long as you remain in power, and you believe that as long as there are no elections and people do not express their opinions, you will not relinquish power. What type of solution do you envisage?

[Najibollah] We have said that we can declare an immediate cease-fire. As a result of this, halting arms supplies to all the sides involved should be discussed by all the sides. Also, the mechanism that I mentioned for elections should begin to work under the supervision of the United Nations. Then the people of Afghanistan will decide who should come into power and who should relinquish power.

[Mo'in] Currently, the Soviet Union greatly needs the United States. The United States has declared that it is ready to refrain from supporting the mujahedin. Are you not worried that the Soviet Union may refrain from backing you?

[Najibollah] We do not see any sign or indication of this. Based on all the norms and standards of international laws and the UN membership held by the Republic of Afghanistan, it cannot only ensure but also expand its cooperation and friendly relations with all countries.

[Mo'in] You have said earlier that Pakistan has a positive position on the UN proposal. Do you think Pakistan's stance has changed toward you?

[Najibollah] So far there is doubt over the question of our trust and belief. However, despite all this, when Pakistanis talk about the political solution of the issue of Afghanistan, we welcome it. And we hope that these talks will not be a cloak to conceal the continuation of military goals.

[Mo'in] What is Iran's view in this regard? What is your opinion concerning Iran's stance?

[Najibollah] We think Iran has a positive stance because they say interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan should end. Free and just elections should take place, and the issue of Afghanistan should be resolved by political and peaceful means. We consider such an evaluation as being positive.

[Mo'in] O.K. If under these conditions the Soviet Union stops supporting you, what will your stance be?

[Najibollah] I have explained to you that we have had cooperation and friendship agreements with the Soviet Union for a long time. Such agreements exist not only with our regime but also existed in the past with the people of Afghanistan and previous governments. Based on this and in accordance with international norms and standards, we have said that our cooperation will not only be reduced but will expand with a mutually beneficial character.

[Mo'in] Do you think we might repeat these words next year too, or do you think a development will take place and the present deadlock will be broken?

[Najibollah] I think the ice of the present deadlock is defrosting at the moment. I think our optimism should be more than our pessimism. The days when we will achieve peace are coming nearer. The contradictory expressions of the other side have some meanings too. If we look very carefully we will understand that—there is an expression in Pashto which says do not look into his mouth, look into his heart—they, too, want this direction. Maybe not today but tomorrow, and very soon they will be ready to talk and negotiate. And the issue of Afghanistan will be solved by peaceful and political means.

[Mo'in] It means you are waiting for their concessions. Do you not want to give any concessions?

[Najibollah] The whole issue can be discussed and solved at the negotiating table as a result of an inter-Afghan understanding.

[Mo'in] Thank you very much, Dr. Najib. It was very kind of you.

[Najibollah] Thank you, Mr. Baqer Mo'in.

[Mo'in] Thank you very much.

[Najibollah] It is very kind of you. You are put in trouble [ba shoma zahmat shod].

[Mo'in] It is very kind of you. I hope peace and prosperity will be established in Afghanistan.

[Najibollah] Thank you. Be happy.

Defense Minister Holds News Conference 4 June

LD0406171391 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of defense for the Republic of Afghanistan, this afternoon addressed a news conference and answered questions from journalists on the political-military situation in the country. According to a report by the BIA military section, during the news conference, which was convened at the headquarters of the Ministry of Defense and was attended by domestic and foreign journalists, the defense minister spoke about a political solution of the Afghan problem, joint efforts of various ranks of the Republic of Afghanistan's Armed Forces to prevent conspiracies by aliens, maintaining the security of the country's highways with iron unity and solidarity, the expansion of the security zones of cities, and about the supply of goods of primary necessity of the people of Paktia, Ghazni, Helmand, and other provinces of the country. He also shed light on the recent values of the Armed Forces [as heard] in Khajaghar district, in Takhar Province; Dasht-e Archi district, in Konduz Province; Zindajan district, in Herat Province; and Muhammad Agha district, in Logar Province; and on the ensuring of peace and security in Qandahar Province and other parts of the country. Journalists' questions were then answered.

Bangladesh

Acting President Declares Wish To Step Down

BK0506161591 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] The acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, has called upon the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] to take steps in the very beginning of the budget session to relieve him of his responsibilities. In a broadcast to the nation over radio and television this evening, the acting president also stressed the need for settling the question of form of government which is agitating the minds of the people.

Explaining the reason of his desire to be relieved of presidential responsibility, Justice Shahabuddin said constitutionally he is the head of state and government. But to allow democracy to function properly, he thought it necessary to delegate wide powers to the Council of Ministers. Being a firm believer in democracy, he did not interfere in the functioning of the cabinet constituted by the elected members.

He said during the past two and a half months the new cabinet had taken certain decisions to which he cannot

agree. But any interference on his part in these matters might arouse criticism as being undemocratic.

The acting president added the unity and consensus of all political parties, which was the basis of his post, is no more in existence.

The acting president called upon the countrymen to promote, nourish, and nurture the democratic process set in motion after the downfall of the autocratic regime six months ago.

Justice Shahabuddin recalled that soon after taking over the responsibility of the acting president, he had repeatedly stated that he would return to his old post after holding free, fair, and impartial elections.

In his address to the parliament on the opening day on the 5th of April, the acting president said that according to the constitution he cannot tender his resignation to anybody. The acting president's tenure will end only after a newly elected president joins his office. But in avoidable circumstances like absence, illness or any other reason makes the acting president unable to act, the speaker can function as president. For this, the acting president said, he urged the Jatiya Sangsad to add the transition and temporary provision to the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution under Article 150. Such an action by parliament would have enabled the acting president to relinquish power. There would also have been no question of the acting president returning to his original office.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed deplored that such a constitutional provision could not be arranged even during the 41 day sitting of the Parliament's first session.

Air Force, Naval Chiefs of Staff 'Retired'

BK0406162091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Chief of Air Staff of Bangladesh Air Force Air Vice Marshal Mumtazuddin Ahmed and Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Amir Ahmed Mustafa have been retired with effect from today. This was announced in a notification issued by the Defense Ministry in Dhaka today.

Air Commodore Altaf Hussain Chowdhury has been appointed new Chief of Air Staff of Bangladesh Air Force. Commodore Muhammad Muhaiminul Islam has been appointed new chief of Naval Staff. These appointments are also effective from today.

Abul Ahsan Appointed Ambassador to U.S.

BK0206134691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan has been appointed Bangladesh ambassador to the United States.

Prior to being the foreign secretary in 1989, Mr. Ahsan served as the first Secretary General of the SAARC

[South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. He also worked as Bangladesh ambassador to Pakistan, Italy, United Nations, and Poland.

India

Punjab Polls on Schedule; Security Requested

BK0606043091 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] The union Home Ministry today reviewed the law and order situation in Punjab in the wake of the killing of candidates there. It was decided to hold elections in the state as scheduled to defeat the designs of divisive forces who wanted to subvert democracy.

Official sources said a high-level meeting presided over by the minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant, discussed the deployment of additional paramilitary forces in the state following a request by the Punjab governor general, O.P. Malhotra. The meeting was attended by the union home secretary, Mr. R.K. Bhargava; the Punjab chief secretary, Mr. Tejinder Pal Singh; and senior central and state government officials.

Senior Congress-I Leader Shot Dead in Punjab

BK0306080491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Former speaker of the Punjab [state] assembly and senior Congress-I leader, Mr. Brijbushan Mehra, was shot dead in Amritsar city today. Mr. Mehra was going to his factory when car-borne militants fired on his vehicle. Mr. Mehra and his driver died on the spot. One gunman was also injured in the incident.

Two More Candidates Shot, Killed in Punjab

BK0406031991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] In Punjab, elections in two more assembly constituencies have been countermanded following the killing of candidates by militants. The candidates killed are Mr. Baldev Singh Lang, Akali Dal-Mann from Samana constituency, and an independent candidate from Nabha constituency. Both seats are in Patiala District.

An official spokesman told our Chandigarh correspondent that the candidates were returning in a car from Village Lang when some car-borne unidentified gunmen opened fire near Village Rangla last night, killing them on the spot. The driver of the car and another occupant were also killed.

With the killing of these two candidates, the total number of assembly constituencies in the state where elections have been countermanded has gone up to 18.

Punjab Candidate Escapes Assassination Attempt

BK0506132291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] In Punjab, a candidate for the state legislative assembly has escaped an attempt on his life. According to an official spokesman, some militants struck at the house of Mr. Jasjit Singh, the independent candidate from Tanda assembly constituency in Hoshiarpur District, late last night. In the exchange of fire which followed, three persons, including two security guards, were killed. Two security guards and the candidate's son were injured.

Bomb Blast Reported in Punjab Capital

BK0606070591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0539 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Excerpt] New Delhi, June 6 (AFP)—A bomb exploded near a government complex in India's Chandigarh City Thursday, killing at least one person and wounding many others, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

No further details were immediately available. [passage omitted]

Punjab Strike Call Evokes Mixed Response

BK0606093491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] In Punjab, the one-day bundh [strike] call given by the Akali Dal-Mann and some militant organizations has evoked a mixed response. According to an official spokesman curtailed bus services are operating in the state at some places under police escort. The supply of milk, fresh vegetables, and fodder has not been much affected. Shops are closed in border districts of Gurdaspur and Amritsar. Elsewhere, the impact varied between 20 to 70 percent. No untoward incident has been reported so far. Elaborate security arrangements have been made in view of today's bundh call.

Security Tightened in Assam for Elections

BK0506131691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Elaborate arrangements have been made in Assam to ensure a free and fair poll tomorrow in the first phase of elections. Over 54 lakh voters will choose their representatives for seven Lok Sabha and 58 assembly constituencies in the first phase. Electoral fortunes of former chief ministers, union ministers, and several state ministers will be decided in tomorrow's poll. An independent candidate has already been declared elected unopposed from the Kokrajhar West assembly constituency. Security arrangements have been tightened throughout the state to ensure peaceful polling. A strict vigil is being

maintained in vulnerable areas. The Election Commission has sent 42 central observers to the state to supervise the polling. Special arrangements have been made to ensure that the polling is not hampered by heavy rains and floods.

Campaigning for the second phase of polls in Assam comes to an end tomorrow in which over 65 lakh voters will elect their representatives for the remaining seven Lok Sabha and 67 assembly seats in the state on Saturday. There are 90 candidates in the fray for the Lok Sabha and 956 for the assembly constituencies going to the polls in the second phase.

Voting Begins in Assam; Heavy Turnout Reported

BK0606035391 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0240 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] In Assam, polling for seven Lok Sabha and 57 assembly seats began at 0700 this morning. It will continue till 1700 in the evening. Polling in the Badarpur assembly constituency in Karimganj District has been countermanded following the death of a candidate belonging to the Nutan Asom Gana Parishad this morning.

Our Silchar correspondent after visiting some polling booths in the town reports heavy polling. Over 54 lakh voters are expected to exercise their franchise in the first phase of polling. The electoral fortunes of 76 candidates for the Lok Sabha and about 760 for the assembly seats will be decided in today's polls.

Special arrangements have been made to ensure that the polling is not hampered by heavy rains or floods. Our Silchar correspondent reports that in Hailakandi District in Barak Valley, the authorities have erected bamboo platforms for conducting polls in a few polling stations which were inundated by the heavy downpour yesterday. In Karimganj District, over 50 polling booths affected by the recent floods have been relocated. Security arrangements have been tightened throughout the state to ensure a peaceful poll. A strict vigil is being maintained in vulnerable areas; 42 central observers are supervising the elections.

Meanwhile, campaigning for the second phase of elections in the state ends this evening. Over 65 lakh voters will elect their representatives for the remaining seven Lok Sabha and 67 assembly seats on Saturday [8 June]. There are 90 candidates in the fray for the Lok Sabha and 956 for the assembly seats. An independent candidate has already been declared unopposed from the Kokrajhar West assembly constituency.

Police Shoot at Protesting Workers; 6 Killed

BK0306032891 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0240 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, six workers of cement factory and 40 injured in a police firing in Sonbhadra District yesterday. The agitating workers, who were holding a

gate [as heard] meeting in protest against privatization of the factory, turned violent and indulged in arson and heavy brickbattling. The police had to open fire to control the situation. An official spokesman told our Lucknow correspondent that the workers also prevented the entry of factory officials.

Kashmir Violence Increases; Politicians Warned

BK0606035491 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network
in English 1600 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Militants in Jammu and Kashmir have stepped up violence against civilians. According to an official spokesman, 117 persons were killed by militants during January to April and another 113 died in the cross-fire between militants and security forces. With the militants acquiring more sophisticated weapons, politicians in the valley are likely to be the target of the militants. The spokesman said political leaders in the valley have been asked to be more careful.

Rama Rao Fast Broken Forcibly; Health 'Normal'

BK0406130891 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] The National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, was today forced to give up his five-day long silent indefinite fast. Mr. Rama Rao was given saline and glucose this morning by the doctors attending on him following a magisterial order to save his life. Mr. Rama Rao, who broke his silence after he was administered glucose, told newsmen that though his fast was broken forcibly, he would continue his struggle till his demands for adequate compensation for victims of violence that followed Rajiv Gandhi's assassination are met.

Soon after Mr. Rama Rao came out of the hospital and drove to his residence, he addressed a few public meetings on the way. He alleged that his arrest and subsequent eviction from the hospital was the conspiracy of the chief minister. He said that he will now go directly to the people to seek justice.

According to the family sources, Mr. Rama Rao is taking rest and his health has been described as normal.

Iran

Saudi Foreign Minister Begins Visit to Tehran

Welcomed by Velayati 5 June

LD0506092391 Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT
5 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, June 5, IRNA—The Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived here this morning and was greeted at the airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Speaking to reporters, al-Faysal thanked Velayati for "the opportunity provided me and my delegation to

respond to his (Velayati's) historic visit to Saudi Arabia during which he also met with King Fahd."

He said Velayati's visit to Saudi Arabia earlier this year had greatly affected mutual relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Faysal said he will discuss "the issues of the Islamic world" with his Iranian counterpart.

Opens Talks at Foreign Ministry

LD0506103191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0953 GMT
5 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Tehran, 5 June (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, arrived today at Tehran International Airport on a visit to Iran at the invitation of his excellency the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. [passage omitted]

At noon today his highness the foreign minister attended a luncheon given in his honour by His Excellency Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati at the Iranian Foreign Ministry. Senior Iranian officials and members of the diplomatic corps attended.

A round of talks has followed between the two delegations led by the two ministers. [passage omitted]

Reviews Bilateral Issues

LD0506205591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT
5 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, who has come to Tehran at the head of a high-ranking political delegation, met with Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati on Wednesday afternoon.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, during the meeting views were exchanged and discussions were held on bilateral issues such as that pertaining to the hajj ceremonies, the situation in the region, and international cooperation.

During the meeting, which lasted three hours, Mr. Velayati emphasized the satisfaction of our country's officials with the cooperation, thus far, in facilitating the Iranian pilgrims' visit to perform this year's hajj, and the effects of this cooperation on existing relations. He said: The two countries have opened a new page in their relations, and the continuation of that trend, and the assistance for Iranian pilgrims in properly performing the hajj ceremonies, will have a positive effect in all aspects.

Our country's foreign minister the regional situation, noted the Islamic Republic of Iran's positive opinion on the outcome of the talks [as heard], and expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the member-countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council in expanding relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi Arabian foreign minister, described the role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region as important. He announced his country's readiness to expand bilateral relations. Referring to the recent meeting of the foreign ministers of the member countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, he said: Those countries welcome the establishment of cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On this basis of the same report, during this round of talks, both sides were in agreement on what they believe to be the necessity to make efforts to remove the causes of aggression in the region. Both sides expressed the hope that the Iraqi Government will reply positively to the call for justice by the people of that country.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0606101991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
6 Jun 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal this morning. During the meeting, which was also attended by our country's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, the Saudi foreign minister said: It is an extremely great honor for me and my delegation to be received by Your Excellency in the great and dear country of Iran. The people of Saudi Arabia are very happy about the positive developments in ties between the two countries. We are sure that the positive trend of cooperation between the two countries in the political and economic fields ensures the interests of the people of the region and has significant effects on the Islamic ummah on an international level.

He expressed hope that Iran's cooperation with the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council countries will expand further. Sa'ud al-Faysal also conveyed a formal invitation from King Fahd to our country's president to visit Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the Saudi foreign minister for King Fahd's message and expressed satisfaction about the growing trend of cooperation between the two countries. He said: Iran and Saudi Arabia have turned over a new leaf in their mutual relations. Because of the vast existing grounds for the expansion of cooperation, continuation of this trend is necessary for the realization of common wishes based on Islamic beliefs and toward preservation of the interests of the two countries and the region.

Karrubi, Ahmad Jibril Discuss U.S. Interference

LD0506213991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT
5 Jun 91

[Excerpt] A group of Palestinian and Pakistani personalities held separate meetings with Mr. Karrubi, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly on Wednesday evening.

According to our correspondent, Ahmad Jibril referred to the regional situation and U.S. interference by saying: In Arab and Muslim countries, apart from Iran, the ruler and the person being ruled [hakem va makhum] are both afraid of America, and America belittles them more and more each day.

Referring to the point that the Iranian nation has achieved immunity from current problems, despite the current difficult situation, he said: The Iranian nation owes this fact to the bravery of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds.

Mr. Karrubi also referred to the problems of Palestine and the Islamic Consultative Assembly, which is holding a joint conference on the Islamic revolution of Palestine. He said: On the basis of the imam's guidelines, the anti-Zionist struggle will continue to the last Zionist. [passage omitted]

Petroleum Minister Comments on OPEC Decisions

NC0606075891 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Jun 91*

[Text] Petroleum Minister Mr. Aqazadeh returned to Tehran from Vienna last night after attending OPEC's 89th session. He told our correspondent that during this session, the OPEC members discussed the maintenance of the production ceiling of 22.3 million barrels of oil a day and of the price of each barrel of oil at \$21 for the third quarter of the current Christian year.

FRG Envoy Says Ties Not Contingent on Hostages

LD0306211791 *Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 3 Jun 91*

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA—German Ambassador here Armin Freitag said today that Germany had never said that the promoting of relations with Iran would be contingent upon the Western hostages or upon fulfillment of any other condition.

Speaking in a meeting with Western European Affairs Director of the Foreign Ministry Hamid Reza Asefi, Freitag appreciated Iran's efforts in relation with the Western hostages in Lebanon and asserted that broadening relations with Iran would be in the interest of both countries.

The German ambassador also stressed that Iran-Germany relations have been particularly friendly especially after a telephone conversation last month between Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Lebanese Official Warns of U.S. 'Plots'

LD0306164591 *Tehran IRNA in English 1419 GMT 3 Jun 91*

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA—Prominent Lebanese 'Alim Allamah Muhammad Hussayn Fadhlallah here Monday said the United States was "hatching elaborate plots against revolutionary Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine."

In his meeting with Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmed Khomeyni, the son of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Allamah Fadhlallah also underlined "Iran's determining role in foiling the conspiracies of the U.S. and Israel."

Fadhlallah is here to attend ceremonies commemorating the second anniversary of the passing away of the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

Also present at the meeting were leader of the Islamic Movement of Tunisia Rashid al-Ghonushi, two Palestinian leaders Ahmed Jibril and Abu-Jihad and the Friday prayer leader of Washington Sheikh Mohammad al-Asi.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni told the visitors that the Islamic Republic of Iran is under attack from the U.S. and the West because of its being "a model Islamic and revolutionary state."

However, he made it clear, "The arch enemies of the Islamic revolution and the late imam will suffer a setback as before on the international scene because our revolution relies on the Islamic spirit of the people."

He said the Islamic resistance in Lebanon and Palestine is inspired by the Islamic revolution and the late Imam's revolutionary ideas, which he called the "pivot of Islamic unity in the world."

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Economic Officials Seek Political Asylum in Nepal

BK0206151091 *Hong Kong AFP in English 1501 GMT 2 Jun 91*

[Text] Kathmandu, June 2 (AFP)—Six Bhutan officials of Nepalese origin Sunday announced their decision to seek political asylum in Nepal to ensure their "individual freedom."

The six, who identified themselves as former top ranking economic officials, said in a statement released here that they "were obliged to leave our motherland to seek political asylum in Nepal for our individual freedom."

In their statement, the six charged that Bhutan was experiencing a crisis due to the government's alleged

three year old policy of imposing Drukpa culture in the southern part of the Kingdom, which is dominated by people of Nepalese origin.

Bhim Subb, who said he was director general of the Department of Power before fleeing the Kingdom, told a press conference that as political conditions deteriorated, "our moral convictions compelled us to disassociate ourselves from the administration."

The other five identified themselves as: R.B. Basnet and R.K. Chhetri, managing and assistant managing director respectively of the State Trading Corporation; D.P. Basnet, a director of the Department of Trade and Industries; Manoj Tamang, deputy director of the Planning Commission; and Usha Tamang, an assistant director at the Royal Monetary Authority of Thimpu.

The six entered Nepal on May 21 and asked for political asylum on May 27, sources said.

The statement said a major political upheaval was currently taking place in the Kingdom of Bhutan, which is separated from Nepal by a thin strip of Indian territory.

The six said the Bhutan Government's alleged crack-down in the past year "against any form of dissidence has resulted in indiscriminate arrests, deportation and the exodus of thousands of citizens."

Mr. Basnet said they were not seeking to topple King Jaime Singhe Wangchuck or set up an independent state but were simply demanding full political and human rights.

Five More Officials Seek Asylum

BK0306140691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1402 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Kathmandu, June 3 (AFP)—Five more Bhutan officials of Nepalese origin and their families entered Nepal Monday asking for political asylum, Bhutan sources here said.

The sources identified two of the new arrivals as Bhutan National Assembly Member Purna Basnet and the zonal statistical officer for the Chuka Zone, Bimal Chhetri.

Also Monday the President of the Bhutan People's Party (BPP) R. K. Budhathoki in a press statement congratulated the King of Bhutan on the anniversary, June 2, of his coronation.

He said the date was significant in the "history of the current movement of human rights and democracy" in Bhutan as the BPP was formed a year ago on that day.

The BPP, he said, had continued to fight for a constitutional monarchy based on a written constitution, an independent judiciary and human rights, but added "our political movement has received brutal suppression" by the government culminating in the forced eviction of Bhutanese of Nepalese origin.

Mr. Budhathoki claimed "several senior officers from southern Bhutan have already resigned ... in protest against the increasing suppressions against the Bhutanese of the Nepalese origin." [passage omitted]

King Officially Appoints Koirala Prime Minister

BK2605141991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1409 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Kathmandu, May 26 (AFP)—King Birendra has formally appointed Girija Prasad Koirala as Nepal's new prime minister, a royal palace press note announced over state radio said here Sunday.

The king formalised the appointment during a meeting with Mr. Koirala at the palace, which was also attended by outgoing Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, the radio said.

King Birendra also asked Mr. Koirala to submit the names of his intended cabinet, it added.

The king is expected to administer the oath of prime minister to Mr. Koirala on Wednesday, when the new prime minister is also due to publicly announce his cabinet.

Talking to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Mr. Koirala said: "I prefer a very small cabinet for the time being and I will expand it some time later."

During the meeting at the palace, the king also thanked Mr. Bhattarai for carrying out his responsibilities as interim prime minister.

Names of New Cabinet Members Announced

BK2905051891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0459 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Kathmandu, May 29 (AFP)—Nepal's new cabinet announced Wednesday:

Prime Minister, Defence, Foreign, Finance, Health and Royal Palace affairs:	Girija Prasad Koirala
Water resources and communications:	Basu Dev Rimal
Housing and physical planning:	Bal Bahadur Rai
Land reform management:	Jagan Nath Acharya
Social welfare, labour and cooperation:	Sheikh Idris
Education and culture:	Ram Hari Joshi
Forest, soil conservation and agriculture:	Sarjya Acharya
Home:	Sher Bahadur Deupa
Local development:	Ram Chandra Paudyal
Industry:	Dhundi Raj Shastri
General administration:	Maheswore Prasad Singh
Local supply:	Chiranjibi Wagle
Law, justice and parliamentary affairs:	Tara Nath Bhatt
Public works and transport:	Khum Bahadur Khadka
Commerce:	Gopal Man Shrestha

New Cabinet Formed After Elections

BK2905045491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0418 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Kathmandu, May 29 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal Wednesday approved a 15-member Council of Ministers headed by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, a palace communique broadcast over state radio said.

Mr. Koirala, whose Nepal Congress Party won the May 12 general elections, retains the portfolios of royal palace affairs, health, defence, foreign affairs and finance, the statement said.

Basu Dev Risal, an assistant general secretary of the Nepali Congress, ranks second after the prime minister in order of precedence, and was given the important portfolios of water resources and communications.

The sole woman minister in the cabinet, Sailja Acharya, 45, has been given the portfolio of agriculture, forests and soil conservation, the official communique said.

The king was scheduled to administer the oath of office to Mr. Koirala, who will then swear in the cabinet, at the palace later Wednesday.

Koirala Comments on 'New Era of Democracy'

BK2905122091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1205 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Kathmandu, May 29 (AFP)—Nepal's new prime minister Wednesday urged the political opposition and the public to help his young government tackle the problems facing this impoverished Himalayan mountain kingdom.

Girija Prasad Koirala told reporters after he swore in the 14 members of his cabinet that Nepal was entering "a new era of full-fledged democracy" after the country's first free elections in 32 years were held earlier this month.

"We have, however, taken up the responsibility of government at a very difficult stage...with a very grave and deteriorating economic condition," Mr. Koirala said.

"We want cooperation from all the political opposition and from the general public to run the government successfully and to provide economic relief to those in the low income bracket and to the rural poor," he said.

He also stressed a need for discipline.

"Without discipline, no government can run successfully, nor can the society move peacefully towards a definite goal," he said.

Mr. Koirala's Nepali Congress Party won a majority of seats in the elections held May 12. Heading up the opposition is the United Marxist Leninist faction of the Nepal Communist Party.

The election followed the downfall last year of a partyless political system known as panchayat after two months of popular unrest in which 500 people were killed.

Mr. Koirala spoke after King Birendra approved his new government Wednesday, in which the prime minister is also serving as minister of health, defence, foreign affairs, finance and royal affairs. He said he would try to achieve the goals set by his brother, Biswesore Prasad Koirala, who was prime minister in Nepal's last and only previous elected government in 1959-60 before it was dismissed by King Birendra's father, King Mahendra.

"It was the dream and aspiration of the late Biswesore Prasad Koirala to provide food, shelter and clothes to the rural poor and those in the low income bracket," he said. "His dream for a full-fledged democracy now has been realized...but we have yet to fulfill the economic aspects."

Bhandari Reaffirms Party's Support for Democracy

BK0506150591 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English 1415 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] General Secretary of the Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist and Leninist Madan Bhandari has reiterated his party's firm commitment toward consolidating democracy in Nepal. Addressing a mass meeting at [name indistinct] yesterday, Mr. Bhandari stressed the need for complete democratization of the country and urged the peasants, laborers, businessmen, industrialists, public servants, and others to act according to democratic norms and values for the attainment of this goal. He said his party would support creative activities of the Nepali congress in the democratization and safeguarding of national identity and the promotion of public welfare, and added that his party, however, would not lag behind in raising voices in the parliament or taking to the streets against such problems as price hikes, lack of law and order, and nationalism.

King Approves Bill Granting Press Freedom

BK0206002291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1920 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Kathmandu, June 1 (AFP)—King Birendra has approved a publications bill doing away with the draconian restrictions that muzzled Nepal's press during three decades of panchayat rule, official sources said Saturday.

The press and publications act guarantees that authorities will not shut down newspapers or publishing houses for publishing materials critical of the government or high-ranking civil or military officials, the sources said.

However, the bill does bar reports threatening "national sovereignty, integrity, national security, peace and order," notably by fostering strife between communities, or those defaming the crown or members of the royal family.

King Birendra, whose role was reduced to constitutional monarch following widespread popular protests against partyless panchayat rule last year, gave his consent to the bill on Thursday, the sources said. It immediately became law.

The Nepal Journalists Association welcomed the bill passed by the interim government of Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, who stepped down last month following Nepal's first free elections in 32 years.

Under the panchayat system, newspapers and publishing houses could be closed, their printing presses seized, and editors and publishers jailed for publishing books, leaflets or articles criticizing government officials or the system.

The new bill guarantees an end to such measures, placing "no restrictions" on political commentary, one source said. However, it was not immediately clear who would judge whether reports were contrary to national security or peace, and how the publishers of such reports would be sanctioned.

Pakistan

USSR Envoy on Afghan Settlement, Soviet Ties

BK2105050191 Karachi DAWN in English
20 May 91 p 7

[Text] Islamabad, May 19:—The Afghan problem has to be solved with the participation of all the segments of Afghan polity without any discrimination, Soviet Ambassador Victor Yakunin observed here on Sunday.

Talking to newsmen after a seminar held to commemorate the 43rd anniversary of the establishment of Pak-Soviet diplomatic relations, he said Pakistan and Soviet Union "should facilitate this process."

With a high-level Pak-Soviet contact on the subject only four days away, Mr Yakunin described the Afghan problem as "complicated and complex" for which, he said, efforts were being made by the world community in the spirit of three consensus resolutions of the UN.

"But the Afghan problem should be resolved by the Afghans themselves, peacefully, through negotiations and through political means," he added.

When asked if the Soviet Union had changed its stand with respect to participation of Najibullah in the negotiations, he said: "We have changed our position substantially in the last six years. We have withdrawn from Afghanistan but we cannot send commands to remove Najibullah. He is there because a section of the population wish and will so."

In his opinion, a political solution of the Afghan problem required the establishment of a broadbased government.

When asked if he found anything new in the current Pakistani initiative, the Soviet Ambassador said he did not know the substance of the initiative.

In his speech at the seminar Mr Yakunin said the Asian security proposal as presented by the Soviet Union was open to constructive suggestions. "We will welcome constructive proposals and will work to achieve the goal of peace and stability in Asia," he added.

He told the audience that the changes taking place in the Soviet Union had not rendered the country irrelevant in global politics and neither had socialism collapsed.

He asked Pakistanis not to make the Soviet Union scapegoat for the commissions and omissions of Pakistan's foreign policy. "We are doing soul-searching in the Soviet Union. You should also do some soul-searching."

He said Soviet relations with Pakistan were based on the principles of non-interference and respect for sovereignty.

He said the Soviet Union and Pakistan were different countries, and "We have to live with these differences."

Otherwise, he said, in a lighter vein, "either you would become a part of the Soviet Union or the Soviet Union would become the fifth province of Pakistan."

The Chief Justice, Mr Justice Afzal Zullah who presided over the function, in his presidential address suggested that Pakistan should be detached from India in the Asian security scheme. "Why not attach Pakistan with the Middle East," he suggested.

He also advised Pakistanis and Soviets to "forget and forgive the past and establish friendship on new lines."

Spokesman on Discord With USSR on Afghanistan

BK0506111891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1100 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] The government is engaged in intensive diplomatic initiative for an early political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon that consultations have been held in this connection with Saudi Arabia, Iran, United States, China, the Soviet Union as well as with the personal representative of the UN secretary general. Pakistan has already welcomed the five-point proposal of the UN secretary general for the political settlement of the issue. He said there was close identity of views on various aspects of the Afghan issue in these consultations. All the countries agreed on the need to coordinate their policies with a view to expediting the settlement.

Answering a question, he said the Soviet Union was also in agreement on the need for a political settlement of the question as well as on certain other points. However, there were still differences on certain other points, particularly on the arrangements for transition period.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said that official of appropriate level would visit Pakistan in the near future to continue discussions on the subject.